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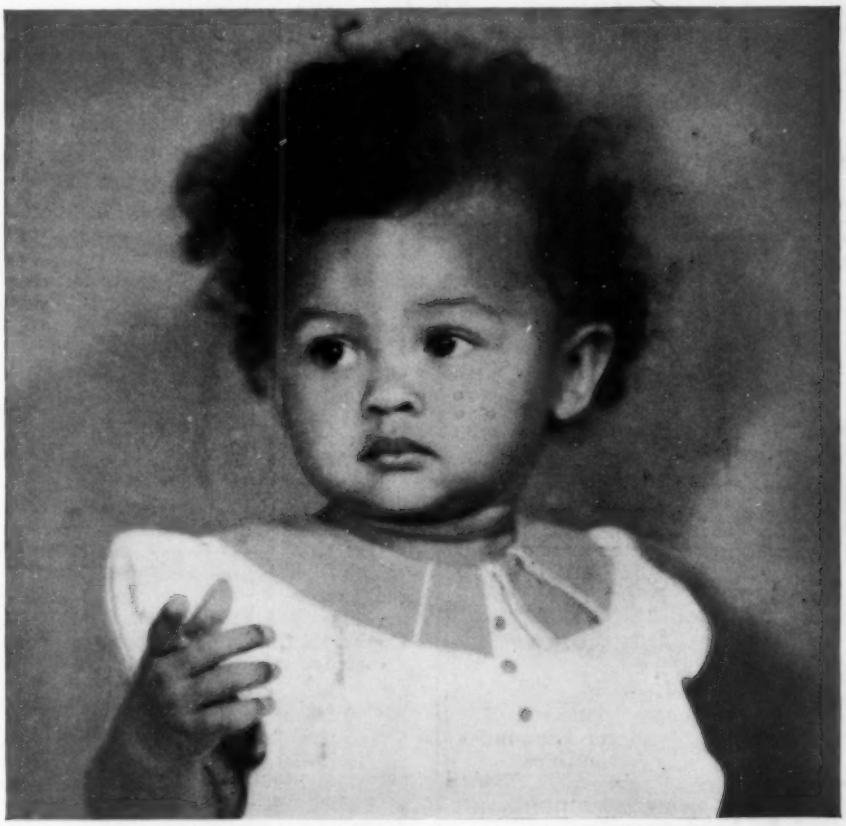

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Photographs will NOT be returned unless accompanied by return postage and self-addressed container. Photographs postmarked *after midnight, August 1*, will not be considered.

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College and School News

On March 31, the third annual College Students' Christian Conference began in Greenleaf Memorial Hall at **Shaw University.** Outstanding leaders of Christian thought were among the speakers.

President Felton G. Clark of **Southern University** has been initiated into Beta Chapter of Wisconsin of Phi Beta Kappa at Beloit College for his contributions in productive scholarship subsequent to his graduation from college. He has a Bachelor's degree from Beloit, and Master's and Doctor's degrees from Columbia University. An author and contributor to many periodicals, he is now completing a building program of more than one million dollars which will give Southern University a physical valuation of three million dollars. He has headed Southern for three years.

The Florida Intercollegiate Interracial Conference held its sixth annual meeting on March 22d at **Bethune-Cookman College.** Six colleges participated in the conference.

Howard University is offering 80 free scholarships to needy students with exceptional scholastic averages for the academic year 1940-41, on a basis of need and excellence in school grades. They cover cost of tuition up to maximum of $150.00 for the school year, and are available to students planning to enroll in the College of Liberal Arts, the School of Engineering and Architecture, and the School of Music. Applications for scholarship aid are to be made to Prof. Max Meenes, Chairman of the Committee on Scholarship and Student Aid, before May 1, 1940.

Samuel B. Horovitz, Esq., of the Massachusetts bar has made possible scholarship aid for one or two deserving students at the Howard University School of Law.

Morehouse College honored 51 students for high scholarship at special exercises in Sale Hall Chapel the first week in April. They all attained ratings of "B" or above with no mark below "C" for work completed during the first semester of the present academic year.

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Five colored students were among the 230 who received degrees from **Ohio State University** at the Winter Quarter Convocation. They were: May Rena Johnson, B.S. in Home Economics; Katherine Whitehead (A.B. in June '39), B.S. in Education; Charlotte Isobell, B.S. in Fine Arts; Barbara Buckner, B.S. in Education; and Robert W. Coles Jr., B.S. in Agriculture. Mr. Coles, a Hampton alumnus, is outstanding in his chosen field of floriculture, and is a member of Floriculture Forum and of the Ohio State Flower Judging Team for 1939.

Sidney P. Brooks of Cleveland, O., was recently elected President of the Upper Class Council in the YMCA of Ohio State University.

An investigation made at the Hull Zoological Laboratory of the University of Chicago by Miss Birdie L. Scott, of the biology faculty of **Spelman College**, has been published in the "Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine," a University of Chicago publication. Miss Scott has a Bachelor's degree from Spelman and a Master's degree from Atlanta University.

Bennett College faculty members have recently won recognition on basis of merit and accomplishment. Miss Coragreene Johnstone (Chairman, Humanities) received a General Education Board fellowship for English study at the University of Michigan where she received her Master's degree in 1935. She is a Talladega alumna.

Miss Lydia M. Jetton (Home Economics) received a General Education Board grant-in-aid for summer study at Columbia University. She has a Bachelor's degree from Bennett and a Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin.

Miss Frances Johnson (Social Sciences) has been recommended by the U. S. State Department, under the Convention for the Promotion of Inter-American Relations, for a fellowship for study in Haiti. She has a Bachelor's degree from Spelman and a Master's degree from Atlanta University.

The Second Summer Institute on Parent Education and Child Development, sponsored by Bennett College, will be held June 10-28.

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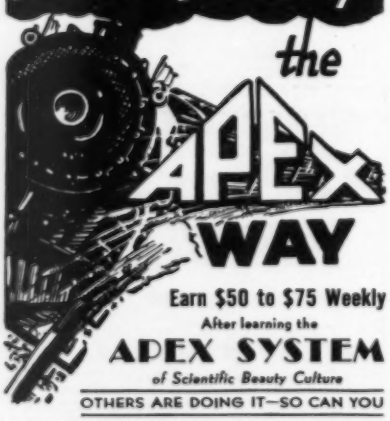

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Many scholarships are available at Atlanta University. Applications for them should be addressed to Registrar J. P. Whittaker.

Plaques of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, done by Mike Bannarn, have been presented to the 135th Street Branch, N. Y. Public Library by the Famous Negro Plaque Company. A bust of the late Richard B. Harrison executed by sculptress Augusta Savage has been presented to the Library by the Harrison Memorial Association. In memory of the late Arthur A. Schomburg, a distinguished oil painting, "Hannibal Crossing the Alps," by Earl Sweeting, has been presented to the library.

The seven institutions of higher education in Atlanta will combine for the eighth year to offer summer instruction under the leadership of **Atlanta University.** These are Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Spelman College, the Atlanta University School of Social Work, Clark University, Morris Brown College, and Gammon Theological Seminary. The Summer School will run from June 10 to July 19.

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MRS. LILLIAN A. ALEXANDER, *Treasurer*

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THE CRISIS *was founded in* 1910. *It is published monthly at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., by Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15c *a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November 2, 1910, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879, and additional second class entry at Albany, N. Y.*

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THE COVER

Erskine Hawkins, leader of his own orchestra, is the writer of the currently popular dance tune, "Tuxedo Junction." Hawkins and all the members of his band, except two (and his personable vocalist Delores Brown), hail from Birmingham, Alabama. All are under thirty years of age and have been playing together since they attended State Teachers College at Montgomery, Alabama.

Young Hawkins, famed as a trumpeter, is known as the "Twentieth Century Gabriel." He and his band, playing nightly from the Savoy ballroom on Lenox avenue in Harlem, are heard thrice weekly over a coast-to-coast radio network. His "Tuxedo Junction," already popular with his following, jumped to overnight fame when Glenn Miller's orchestra made a recording of it. It is reported 130,000 records were sold in the first month.

NEXT MONTH

Louis L. Redding, who will be remembered by CRISIS readers for his searching article on the late Senator Borah, contributes to the June issue a piece on Vice-President John Nance Garner.

•

George S. Schuyler who has just returned from a trip to Texas where he visited Uvalde, rounds out the picture of Mr. Garner with reports from the vice-president's home state.

•

There will be a piece also by Dr. Harold Moody of London on British colored people and the war.

•

Also a story, "Horns and Tails," by Corinne Dean.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

J. A. Rogers is the well-known historian and lecturer. Dr. Robert C. Weaver is with the United States Housing Authority in Washington.

•

Dorothy Davis is a member of the staff of *The Call*, in Kansas City, Missouri. Lucille Boehm lives in New York.

•

George S. Schuyler is the nationally-known columnist and magazine writer. George N. Leighton attends Howard university, and Carmen Willette is a high school student in Belleville, New Jersey.

The Suppression of Negro History

By J. A. Rogers

HISTORY, or what is said of us nationally, racially, socially, or individually, is often the most important factor in our lives. The most effective way of keeping down a people, regardless of race, and forcing it to sell its labor in the lowest market is continually to publish bad things about it. He who robs me of my good name, said Shakespeare, leaves me poor indeed.

Of this art of debasing a whole people, the American slaveholders were the past masters. Using the Bible as their authority, they painted such an awful picture of Negro ancestry that even some of the Virginia aristocrats had a lively time side-stepping charges of being touched with the tar brush. George Washington, in his diary, January 12, 1760, tells how one haughty Virginia colonel, Catesby Cocke, walked out of Washington's home "disgusted" because he saw there "an old Negro" who resembled him strongly. Colonel George William Fairfax, Washington's bosom friend, was another. Fairfax, who was nephew of Lord Fairfax, Virginia's richest landowner, was born in the West Indies, it was said, of a black Negro mother. Most of the native-born West Indian whites, then as well as now, had a touch of the tar-brush, more or less evident. "In view of his distinguished ancestry this scandal was particularly annoying" to the colonel, who moreover hoped to inherit his uncle's title and estates. He went to England, it is said, to prove to his uncle that he wasn't a Negro; nevertheless, the property went to another. (Rupert Hughes, Life of Washington, Vol. I, p. 183; Vol. II, p. 21).

Still another who was "accused" of being a Negro was Thomas Jefferson. In his case, however, it was clearly pure politics. Jefferson had a fondness for fair black femininity, quite unconcealed, particularly for Sally Hemings, the celebrated Black Sal, and Jefferson's enemies argued that one so fond of Negroes must be of Negro strain himself.

With this as typical of the spirit of the time anything about the achievements of the Negro was simply out of the question. Indeed, any history that did not paint Africans as cannibals and savages who had been dragged out of Africa to save their souls would be almost downright atheism. Solemn-faced divines from Massachusetts to Georgia pounded the Bible at the command of the tobacco-growers to prove that the Negro "was descendant of Ham and thus doomed to be a hewer of wood and a drawer of water for the white race, forever." To talk of Hannibal, Esop, Delphos, Buddha, Akhenaton, or Christ, as being Negroes, was equivalent to flying in the face of the Almighty. Negro history had no more chance than the proverbial cockroach at the roosters' ball. In short, the black man was entirely cut off from his past and liberally dosed with white religion to make him a cross of something between a faithful dog and a grinning mule.

Colored people have aided others in burying Negro history, says Mr. Rogers, because they are reluctant to doubt their "white" textbooks and white "authorities"

The American slave-holder did not stop there. Like the average white southerner of today he was an ardent propagandist abroad of his doctrines of white superiority. He took his racial creed to England, along with his slaves, and succeeded in reviving Negro slavery, which had been abolished there by Chief Justice Holt in 1707. In short, the American slave holding interests made such a thorough black-out of everything favorable to the Negro in literature that now, centuries later, it functions as almost brand new.

Negro History a Reality

Nevertheless, "Negro history" was a reality even as the so-called New World was there despite its absence from maps of the world prior to Columbus. Mankind has been living on this planet not less than half a million years and there is ever increasing proof that the first human beings were Negroes, and that all the other human varieties, including the proud Aryan, are their offspring. Professor W. K. Gregory in "Our Face From Fish to Man" traces on a chart the evolution of man from the Tasmanian Negro. And there are many other scientists from Schopenhauer onwards who have done similarly. Of course, for many Nordics, it is easier to believe that their ancestor was an ape rather than a Negro.

In the dawn of history we find the whites idealizing the blacks. It is possible to produce much painstaking authority to prove that all or nearly all the earliest gods and messiahs from Japan to Mexico, including Jehovah, Christ and the Virgin Mary were what are now called Negroes. The earliest gods of even Ancient Greece were black. Homer tells how the Greek gods used to go to Ethiopia, their ancestral home, to feast and enjoy themselves at intervals. Even the curling of the hair so common among the later Greeks might have been done in imitation of the Negroes. Apollo's face is distinctly Caucasian but his hair is artificially curled until it is a tight pepper-corn. Now the founder of the famous Delphic oracle, the rites of Apollo, was Delphos, a full-blooded, woolly-haired Negro whose effigy appears on a Greek coin of 500 B.C. (C. T. Seltman: Athens, Its History and Coinage, pp. 97,200. 1924). The Christ on a gold coin of Justinian II, Byzantine emperor, has the same pepper-corn hair, a distinctive characteristic of the Negro of the purest type, as the Bushman and the Andaman Islander. The Venus of Willendorf, the oldest known statuary of the human form, of about 10,000 to 15,000 B.C., has the same kind of hair.

George Washington in his Barbados Journal told how the white ladies "affect the Negro style." In Europe I saw white women got up to look like black ones, particularly during the Paris Colonial Exposition of 1931. Some white women had their hair so tightly curled and skin so darkened by sunlight or lotions that it was a distinct surprise to see them later in low neck dresses with the white streak left by the shoulder-straps of the bathing suit.

There is so much of Negro history to be garnered that I am convinced after thirty years of research that it would take several industrious historians a lifetime to gather it. Gerald Massey rightly says, "To the despised black race we have at length to turn for the birth of language, the beginnings of all human creation, and as the Arabic saying puts it let us 'honor the first although the followers do better.'"

Historians Have Blind Spot

So heavy was the black-out laid down by the slave interests, however, that almost none of this Negro history glimmers into the histories written for popular white consumption, including Wells' Outline of History. The popular

white writer has actually developed a blind spot where the Negro is concerned.

The following incident will illustrate my point. I must insist in advance that though it sounds most ridiculous I am telling it just as it happened. Some years ago I attended a lecture on Brazil given by a professor from one of New York's most enlightened colleges and with a reputation for being radical. During the question period I brought up the subject of the Negro strain in John VI, who once ruled Portugal from Brazil. The professor said, "Impossible! He was not a Negro. He was a Bourbon!" In reply I quoted from the Duchess d'Abrantès, one of France's greatest women writers, and wife of the French ambassador to John's court at Lisbon. She said of John VI, "his enormous head with its Negro hair, which, moreover, was quite in harmony with his thick lips, his African nose, and the color of his skin." (Son enorme tête, surmontée d'une chevelure de nègre, qui, au reste, était bien en harmonie avec ses lèvres épaisses, son nez africain, et la couleur de sa peau." Memoires, p. 200, Paris, 1837.) I added that a large proportion of the Portuguese population was then Negro, that John's portrait bears out the Duchess' description, and that the Duchess knew the Negro type as she had lived in Haiti. Still the professor held to his point. "No," he said, "he was not a Negro. *He had adenoids!*"

Equally amazing is the case of Professor Arnold J. Toynbee of London university. If Toynbee's work is an index of his mind he must be utterly free from color prejudice; nevertheless, like H. G. Wells, he is also a victim of the slaveholders' blackout. In his study of history (Vol. I, pp. 232–238), Toynbee flatly asserts that the Negro has made no contribution to past civilization. He says, "When we classify mankind by colour the only one of the primary races given by this classification which has not made a contribution to any of our twenty-one civilizations is the Black Race. . . .

"Within the first six thousand years the Black Race has not helped to create any civilization while the Polynesian has helped to create one civilization; the Brown Race, two; the Yellow Race, three; the Red Race and the Nordic White Race, four apiece; the Alpine White Race, nine; and the Mediterranean White Race, ten."

Four Deleted Words

Match this with what Sir Arthur Evans, one of the greatest archaeologists has said. In his presidential address to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, 1916 (p. 15), he says, as regards even Western Europe, "We must never lose sight of the fact that from the earliest Aurignacian Period onwards a Negroid culture in the broadest sense of the word shared in this artistic culture as seen on both sides of the Pyrenees." What also of the researches of Dieulafoy in Persia, not to mention others!

Yet another illustration. F. A. Wright, in his introduction to the works of Liudprand, Bishop of Cremona, (p. 11) omits mention of the color of Nicephorus Phocas, Byzantine emperor. He quotes Liudprand's whole description of Nicephorus except the four small words "in color a Negro." In place of these he has three dots. Nicephorus Phocas was an Arab. Liudprand visited him in his capital at Constantinople. There was much Negro strain in the Byzantines. The southern part of their empire, Greece, was dominated for years by Negro sea-rovers, who landed in Thessaly in fifty-four ships in 904 A.D. (Schlumberger: Un empereur byzantin, p. 34–35.) The Byzantine emperors took their title of Basileus from the Ethiopians.

Still another case of the hundreds I could cite is that of Robert Browning. Browning was of West Indian ancestry. Frederick J. Furnivall, a contemporary of Browning and head of the Browning Society, after a lengthy discussion of Browning's ancestry, said Browning's Negro strain was a "certainty" to him. (Browning Society Papers, Feb. 28, 1890, Vol. III, pp. 31, 36. London). Thomas Carlyle almost spoke of Browning's dark skin. Nevertheless, many of Browning's admirers and biographers, most of whom have never seen Browning have almost frothed at the mouth at Furnivall's statement.

For unblushing, barefaced suppression of Negro history the palm, as in so many other cases where truth is involved, goes to Hollywood. Cleopatra, who is known throughout history, was at least a mulatto woman, becomes a pale Nordic. So are all of the Three Wise Men, one of whom is depicted in all or nearly all, the great paintings as a Negro. Frank Morgan plays Allessandro dei Medici, Duke of Florence, and mulatto son of Pope Clement VII, in the most approved Hitler complexion. Quite different are the films of Italian make. In D'Annunzio's film Cabiria, Massinissa, celebrated King of Numidia, was played by a Negro. Massinissa provided the balance of power whereby Rome defeated Carthage.

Radicals No Better

So much for the conservative white people. What of the radical economic whites? Are they any better? Personally I have found them to be even narrower. While the conservative whites consider Negro history to be "social equality," the radicals denounce it as "black chauvinism" even while some of them talk about self-determination in the black belt. A book on great Negroes is dubbed "inferiority complex" by the radical whites and some of their Negro converts. Was it a sense of inferiority that inspired Plutarch to write his Lives? Radicals keep their nose so close to the economic grindstone; they talk so much about the belly that one would imagine it is the only organ in the body, except when it comes to laudation of their own leaders. They would put these economic blinders on the Negro, too. Most of the literature they get out about him is defeatist. Reason: the Negroes will be discouraged in their own leadership and become easier tools. The stressing of crime, degeneracy, and injustice at the expense of the more favorable aspects of the Negro's life serves to make many Negroes feel that the economic nostrums of these radicals are their only salvation.

White publishers, too, complain that Negroes will not buy books about themselves. Most of these books tend to hold the Negro just where he has always been. After three centuries of the preaching of defeatism one needs inspiration. People who have been thrust into dark holes crave sunlight.

The Negro Lends Aid

And speaking of crime and defeatism that brings us to the subject of what the Negroes, themselves, do to suppress the favorable in their own history. My experiences on this alone would fill a book. The chief offender in this respect is the Negro press, whose policy, broadly speaking, is almost identical with that of the white press, namely, to give crime and scandal precedence over achievement.

Some years ago at a press conference in Chicago, a Negro reporter took the white editors to task for mentioning color in the case of Negro offenders.

The late Victor Lawson, publisher of the *Daily News* quietly asked, "If we did not carry the color of the offender where would the Negro press get its news? Besides while we give the matter only a paragraph or two, you make a headline of it." After that the Negroes were as mum as mice. I was working on a Negro paper at the time and this was its precise policy. Our editor, and he was no different from the rest, felt that week lost when some Negro did not kill another or some Negro minister or other big shot was not mixed up in a scandal. Negro journalism has come a long way—a very long way—since John

(*Continued on page* 146)

Negroes Need Housing

By Robert C. Weaver

LONG before 1930, it was evident that private industry could not provide decent homes at rents within reach of the great masses of low-income families. This gap between earnings and cost of decent housing was effective in confining the vast majority of Negro families to the slums. The supply of homes available to Negroes of all income levels was further restricted by social factors which artificially limited the area in which they could buy or rent homes. Accordingly, the launching of the government's program for facilitating better housing was of extreme significance to Negroes of all income levels.

The Negro is disproportionately represented in the vast pool of low-income families in America. According to the *Survey of Consumer Incomes in the United States* by the National Resources Committee, more than half the Negro non-relief families in the rural South had, during the year 1935-36, incomes of less than $500 and over nine-tenths had incomes under $1,000. Among urban Negro families in the South conditions were only slightly improved with 47% earning less than $500 and 86% less than $1,000. For northern cities of over 100,000 population, 6.6% of the Negro families received less than $500 per year and more than one-third less than $1,000. When, in addition, the high incidence of relief among colored citizens in the North is considered, it becomes evident that Negroes in that section have a much higher percentage distribution in the lowest third of the nation than these non-relief data indicate.

Although this low earning power is the chief cause of poor housing for Negroes, it is not the only factor contributing to their problems of finding decent shelter. Their limited demand is rendered less effective because of the existence of many restrictions upon the supply of housing available to them. In certain southern cities, Negroes are excluded from all but a few neighborhoods because the larger part of the desirable residential areas are "zoned" for white occupancy. Seldom, however, are other areas provided for colored occupancy which are conveniently located in relation to schools, employment and municipal services.

Further, in many of these cities the local administration and the zoning board cooperate in reclaiming for white occupancy areas now inhabited by Negroes. The health department lends a hand, and as soon as a Negro family is moved from an area which has been zoned "white," the municipal agencies notify the zoning commission. The latter turns to the city government to enforce its regulations. The net result of these concerted actions is the constant diminution of space available to Negro families.

The Negro needed so much that it is difficult to say which of the New Deal programs benefitted him most. Certainly low-cost housing has been a boon, as this article shows

500 Homes, 700 Families

In Fort Lauderdale, Florida, there are less than 500 dwelling units available to some 700 Negro tenant families. In Daytona Beach, Florida, 75% of all Negro dwellings were reported to be structurally unsound. When occupancy conditions, light and air, and facilities such as water, lights, toilets and the like were considered, 96.3% of all Negro-occupied houses were classified as substandard. While constituting nearly a quarter of the city's population in Orlando, Florida, Negroes occupied less than 6% of the total land area.

Low incomes and local custom also contribute towards the restriction of Negroes to certain areas. In Wilmington, North Carolina, slightly more than one-quarter of the white tenant families and over half of the Negro families are living under substandard conditions. In Macon, Georgia, over 90 percent of all Negro families live in substandard homes. Some 5,500 or an eighth of Atlanta's white families, while 13,313 or over a half of her Negro families, live in substandard houses. On the basis of such observations, it may be said that in cities where housing conditions are fair, Negroes have almost a monopoly on substandard facilities; where poor housing prevails, Negroes occupy far more than their share of slum dwellings.

High Tuberculosis Rate

The social effects of poor housing and slum neighborhoods are well known. One has only to observe the physical, economic, and moral decay, to realize what a toll inhuman suffering and frustration these areas exact. The high death rate among Negroes is notorious. That economic and environmental factors are largely responsible for these conditions is shown by the correlation between the frequency of deaths from certain diseases and the type of housing in different neighborhoods.

In Memphis, Tennessee, the board of health recently made an investigation in a slum area where 63% of all the dwellings occupied by Negro families were in an advanced state of dilapidation. Typhoid fever rates for the colored residents over a five-year period showed a direct relation to specific slum areas grouped according to percentage of families or living units without private toilets. A survey by the board of health of Richmond county, Georgia, showed that in one year 20 deaths from tuberculosis occurred among the Negro residents of the 17 slum districts, representing a rate of 151 persons per 100,000 population, more than three times the rate of 49.8 for the nation as a whole.

As zoning ordinances and local customs have succeeded in artificially limiting Negroes to definitely restricted areas in the South, restrictive covenants have accomplished similar results in the North. Because they stifle the natural increase in Negro housing facilities, these covenants do much to foster interracial tension and create a grave housing problem for Negroes in the North.

In the North: Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has long been notorious for its inadequate housing. Two-fifths of all white renting families and three-fourths of all Negro tenant families are living in substandard houses. In Philadelphia, there were 92,000 houses considered substandard in 1934. In that city 70% of the dwellings occupied by colored families were substandard as contrasted to 30% by white families. In Camden, New Jersey, according to the 1934 Real Property Survey, about three-fourths of all Negro families and more than a quarter of the white families were living in substandard houses.

In one census tract of Cincinnati, where Negroes are concentrated, colored families are now paying more rent than whites, whereas a few years ago rents in this area were higher for whites. This Basin area contains 40,197 of the

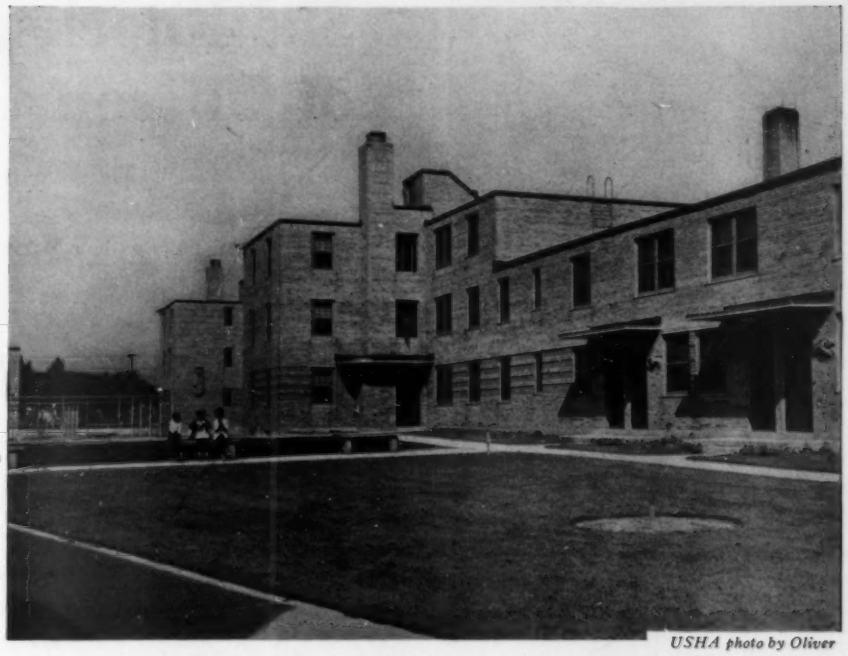
43,877 substandard dwellings in the city and is described by the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority as "an indiscriminate jumble of business, industry, pool rooms, dance halls, taverns, junk yards, and residences." Comprising only a fraction more than 6% of the city's entire acreage, it houses more than 27% of the population.

Despite the abatement of Negro migration to many northern and western cities, large numbers of colored families continue to move into Chicago. At the same time restrictive covenants, programs of demolition, and natural decay have limited the supply of dwellings available to Negroes. The net result has been a continuing increase in demand for housing, coupled with a decline in supply. The result is bad housing at high rents, with consequent social decay. According to the local housing authority there are virtually no vacancies available to Negroes in Chicago; and except in the case of a few of the higher income Negro families, practically all Negro housing in the city is substandard. In 1937, Negro families in that city were paying shelter rents up to $34 per month for dwellings considered substandard in many respects. About 94% of the dwellings renting for $20 and less per month were in a state of dilapidation or badly overcrowded and lacked bath rooms and indoor toilets. Four out of five Negro families paid more than a fifth of their incomes for shelter rent, while two out of five paid more than 30% of their earnings for bad housing.

The situation facing low income Negro families in northern cities may be considered as summarized in a statement by the housing authority of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in its application to the United States Housing Authority. "Shelter, of the most inadequate kind and quality, can be obtained by the Negro only at a disproportionately high price," the application asserted, "and consequently a larger portion of his income is absorbed by rent charges than that of the rest of the population. . . . The average proportion of income paid in rent by the Negro family is between one-fourth and one-third of the total income."

U. S. Housing Program

It was against such a background that the public housing program was projected. The Housing Division of the Public Works Administration completed 48 low-rent projects in the United States. Of these, 14 are occupied by Negroes and 15 are tenanted by Negro and white families together. The program built 21,317 new dwelling units, of which 7,478 or 35% are now occupied by Negroes. In 1937 the United States Housing Authority was established to cooperate with and lend financial aid to local housing authorities for the development of low-rent and slum clearance projects. As of December 28, loan contracts had been approved to facilitate the erection of 347 projects which will house 130,100 families in 155 communities. Of these projects, 118 will be occupied predominantly by Negroes and 39 will be tenanted by both races. Approximately one-third of the units proposed will be occupied by colored families.



USHA photo by Oliver

Willert Park Homes, Buffalo, N. Y., occupied by 173 families

While rents in the first public housing projects averaged $19.47 per month, in USHA projects shelter rents will average approximately $13.80 in the South and $16.80 in the North. Already Negro families are living in USHA-aided projects. When the current program is completed, a large number of colored families of low income will have, for the first time in their lives, the opportunity to live in new, clean, and wholesome homes.

In addition to the houses it is creating, the current public housing program is making other significant contributions to better living for colored Americans. In many cities there were, prior to USHA-aided projects, no public recreational facilities for Negroes. As a result of cooperative agreements incident to USHA-aided projects, such facilities will be supplied and maintained by appropriate local agencies and opened to the entire community.

Municipal services, too, are being extended to Negro citizens. Project boundary streets are usually paved or adequately surfaced. Police and fire protection as well as provisions for garbage and trash removal are assured to tenants. Although these services are fundamental, low-income families and especially Negroes of this economic level have not often received them in the past.

Better Wages Needed

Despite the significance of what has been and is being accomplished, there is much which remains to be done. There are tens of thousands of Negro families whose incomes are too low and too uncertain to be reached by the current program of public housing. Although certain economies in building and operation costs may reduce rents, it is doubtful if all such families could be reached by any program which involved rental payments without inordinately high governmental subsidies. At the same time, it is questionable whether good housing would be effective for families which have not enough income to buy food and clothing of the barest minimum standards. The fundamental need of these people is for decent wages and economic security.

Then, there are many families in the income groups now reached by public housing who cannot find accommodations in existing or proposed projects. There are just not enough units to go

(*Continued on page* 158)

She Knocks at the Door of Missouri University

By Dorothy Davis

MISS BLUFORD

WHEN Lucile Bluford attempted to enroll at the "white" University of Missouri in January, 1939, a daily paper reported that she "breezed onto the campus calling faculty members by name."

Those phrases give an insight into the personality of the young woman who is leading the present fight in Missouri for equality of educational provisions. Lucile Bluford is a modern, intelligent young woman, self-assured, yet modest, with plenty of initiative and the proverbial "nose for news."

At the age of 26 she was made managing editor of the dominant paper of the Southwest—*The Call,* published in Kansas City.

She received her training in journalism from the University of Kansas, being graduated in 1932. While at the Kansas school she received "tuition aid" from Missouri, a provision now theoretically outlawed by the U. S. supreme court decision in the Gaines case.

Miss Bluford is a native of North Carolina. She and her two brothers went to Kansas City at an early age with her father who obtained a teaching position there. In 1928 Lucile finished with honors Kansas City's Lincoln high school, where her father is still a member of the faculty.

Her hands were first smeared with printer's ink at Lincoln high where she was editor of the student paper and the school annual.

At the University of Kansas she played an important part on the staff of the *University Daily Kansan,* official student publication, serving at various times as exchange editor, night editor, society editor and telegraph editor. In those capacities she worked alongside white students in a harmonious relationship.

After graduation she spent a few months at the *Atlanta Daily World,* then "returned home to *The Call*" where she had done work during summer vacations. At *The Call* she has been police reporter, city editor, news editor and since the summer of 1937, managing editor. She is also at home in the mechanical department, where she sometimes gives the makeup crew a hand.

Always on the lookout for new ideas and methods, Miss Bluford felt that she would like to do further study after being made managing editor.

In her own state where she and her parents are taxpayers is the pioneer journalism school of the nation—at the University of Missouri. It is ranked as "tops" among schools of journalism by experts in the field. It draws students from every state in the union and many foreign countries including a number of different races—all except the American Negro. It is housed in two buildings, with the latest in mechanical equipment and ample library facilities. Not only do the journalism students issue a student paper, but they publish the newspaper for the city of Columbia —The Columbia *Missourian.*

Miss Bluford had often talked of attending the University of Missouri journalism school, and with the rendering of the favorable Gaines decision it seemed that her opportunity had come.

But the University of Missouri is still fighting the order that it open its doors to Negroes, and Miss Bluford has taken her case into the courts.

Journalism Building
University of Missouri

Missouri Independent Union Wins Labor Victory

NATIONAL EDITION — THE CALL — 20 PAGES

Kansas City's Leading Weekly

S. D. Scruggs Jr. Elected President of Lincoln U.

GARY, IND., MOTHER IS STILL SEARCHING FOR KIDNAPED BABY

CURATORS SELECT KANSAS EDUCATOR TO HEAD SCHOOL

NEGRO INDEPENDENT UNION GETS INJUNCTION AGAINST NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD

FORT SCOTT WOMAN DIES FROM BURNS

MRS. VILLA DUGGINS SUCCUMBS

JAIL FOR DOCTORS IN ACCIDENT RING

As managing editor of The Call, *Miss Bluford handles a 20-page paper, with an ABC circulation of 21,000, issued in three editions weekly. This is one of her front page layouts*

The first hearing of her case was at Columbia in February when she was such an intelligent, straight-forward and convincing witness that she won the admiration of the roomful of white students who crowded the court.

During recesses and after the trial was over, students from Stephens college, exclusive girls' school, crowded around her, congratulating her courage, and asking questions. After the trial, the judge took the case under advisement.

While awaiting the court's decision, Miss Bluford is at *The Call* conducting her work as usual, except to be continually asked by the many persons in all walks of life who know her, "How is your case coming?"

She plays an active part in Kansas City's civic activities: N.A.A.C.P.; Negro Chamber of Commerce, and the Kansas City chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

She is anxious to know how much longer she must wait for the opportunity which the supreme law of the land says is hers. As Charles H. Houston, N.A.A.C.P. counsel, said in arguing her case, "One girl stands at the door, and a generation waits outside."

Sunday

By Lucille Boehm

Anna and Roy had Sundays from their work, Sundays to ease their muscles and change their paces

OUTSIDE the window the yard was slaty-green, like it had sunk under water. And the pressure of steamy dampness lay everywhere, and seemed heavy as water pressure on an ocean bed. Anna breathed thickly beneath her sheet. She rolled over to her right hip, flopped down on her stomach. Parallel rows of stitches spread out before her closed eyes. Neat, tiny, even stitches. Little tracks of them. And some tracks criss-crossed others at miniature junctions. Shiny silk stitches on stiff felt. Her hot fingers weaved in and out under the sheet. In, out, in, out, in—and the third finger pushed mightily and the thumb and fore-finger pulled fiercely. Half waking, she felt the old thawing ache at the tip of her spine. The cramp in her bent shoulders, the tautness of her straining neck. And her fingers weaved under the sheet and burned like they were flayed.

Suddenly a thought wrenched her from sleep. She sat up straight in bed and stared through the window. Today was Sunday. She kicked down the sheet, trampled it with her toes. Today was Sunday! Her tight muscles gave like springs and she bolted from the couch. Tugged a suspended string to light the feeble red bulb in the dark closet-room. The light cast a dreary pinkish veil over her eyes. She blinked, dragged the sheet and unused quilt from the heap they made at the foot of the couch. Tucked them under the lumpy cushions with one sliding sweep of her hand on either side.

"You up, Anna?" There was a clashing of pots and plates from the kitchen.

Anna stepped over a heap of dirty clothes strewn on the floor. She brushed a pair of bedroom slippers and a torn cotton dog from the stuffed arm-chair onto the heap, and then deftly kicked the whole tangled mess under the couch.

"You cleanin' up in there, Anna?" came from the kitchen.

"Yeah," said Anna. She opened a home-made wooden cabinet and rummaged through the sparse garments hanging from the rack. Finally she selected a washed-looking georgette blouse with faded candy stripes and glass buttons.

"Be done in a minute," she yelled to the next room. She stepped into a crepe skirt, and the white of her slip gleamed through two splits in the seam. Shrugging her shoulders into the sleeves of the striped blouse, she shuffled through the gathered yellow cheesecloth that served as a summer curtain.

A rust-speckled coffee pot was percolating on the stove. Anna lifted it off and brought it down with a clang on the porcelain-top table. Seized a cup from the shelf, its handle in the crook of her forefinger, and yanked a saucer from under a pile of chattering cups. "Sh!" said her mother. Anna poured the coffee quickly and gulped it standing.

"Why'nt you sit down, rest your feet?" asked her mother, shoving a low stool toward the table.

"That ain't no rest. I been doin' that all week. Sit an' sit an' sit in a place that's so hot you can't hardly breathe. I ain't goin' sit still one minute today."

Anna dumped her coffee grounds into the sink and dangled the cup by its handle under the faucet. She felt that her mother was watching her carefully, and her guts hardened for what she knew was coming.

"What you mean you ain't gon' set today?"

Line shadows deepened firmly about Anna's mouth. And the tiny pockmarks bit deeper into her square brown chin.

"Roy gonna take me to the beach."

Each word was a hard little pellet as she spat it from between her teeth.

Worry muddied her mother's eyes behind their rimless glasses. Worry that wavered uncertainly between fear and fury. Each week was a tide driving her relentlessly against the unpaid bills. Beating her like waves beat a battered ruin against a rock. Week after week the worry drove her. There would be three dollars from Buster's part-time job at the riding stable. And there would be two-fifty for cleaning the corset shop. Five-fifty. And Anna says she prepared a dozen hats every day down-town. That brings it to fourteen-fifty. Anna's mother fished a stubby pencil from her house-dress pocket and squatted down behind the stove to mark figures in tiny perpendicular rows on the wall. If Anna can finish another dozen bodies today there will be sixteen-thirty altogether: forty cents for coal, and thirty-five cents for ice, and maybe the salt bag on the gas meter will keep this month's bill down to about ninety-eight cents, and seven nineteen for food and six seventy-five for rent, and she can lock out the electric man if he comes around this week. . . .

Anna's mother stood up, fearfully calm. She thrust a strand of hair behind her ear—black hair thickly peppered with grey, like a nappy tweed.

"Ain't you gon' do them hats you brung home?" she asked quietly.

Anna shook her head, and her lips were clamped like a scar.

"How you think I'm gon' pay tomorrow's rent if you don't gimme that buck fifty you owe me?"

Anna strugged insolently and turned her back. "I don't owe you no buck fifty." She ripped a page from Saturday's *News*, crumpled it, struck the faucet mouth with it until a few drops made it damp and then used it industriously to wipe the glass cabinet doors.

Her mother stood watching her from the middle of the floor, hands on her hips, squat and still as a tree stump. Fear lapped over her in little waves. And her throat pulsed quickly and beat hot blood down her neck and through her shoulders. Every week. Every week. She shivered.

"Yes you do," she said thinly, "you sure do owe me a buck fifty. The rent cost me almos' seven dollars every week, an' you lives here just like everyone else—"

"Will you cut jivin' my ear off!" Anna boosted her skirt and mounted the stool so she could reach the top of the cabinet with her soggy ball of paper. She made wide arcs on the glass and her shoulders moved freely, gladly breaking the huddled cramp that jailed her body all week. Today's short sip of freedom was wrung from the parching drought of endless workdays.

"You'd never a got that job if it wasn't for me!" Her mothers' voice was thinning to a blade-sharp wail.

"Well if you give me that job, Ma'am you can take it right back. It stinks. That Miss Alice—she pay all the white girls by the week. I'm the on'y one get paid by the dozen. An' she don't ask *them* to take no homework! That Miss Alice!—If she say anythin' to me boy I cuss her out so fast—"

Anna made broad circles on the cabinet door and her arm swung luxuriously.

Today Anna. Tomorrow the rent man. Seems like you can never be with

folks. Always against them. Always quarreling. Even with the ones you love. Anna's mother was quivering as she advanced toward the stool. She kicked it with the side of her slippered foot. And when she spoke there were barbs in her voice.

"You come down off here," she warned, "come right down off here now. I don't hafta take no stuff outa you! You come down an' finish up them hats!"

"I'll come down when I'm good an' ready," blurted Anna, but she wisely chose to be ready as soon as she spoke, and stepped off the stool at once. "Me an' Roy an' the whole Acme Hipsters Gang is goin' to Orchard Beach. We gonna cut up, boy!" She stretched upward, pushing the ache from her back through the stiff joints of her arms and out to the tips of her bruised fingers. "If you think I'm gonna sit around makin' hats all day on a Sunday you're crazy!"

She moved toward the bedroom. Little Aaron scooted before her and she shoved him roughly out of the way. "Aaaaaa!" he bawled. "Why'nt you stop worryin' that child, Anna!" screamed her mother. The last layer of restraint was peeling from her raw, helpless rage. "I've a good mind to lick you, old as you is!"

Anna was in the dull-red hole of a bed-room, squinting before the mirror. She patted light powder over her face, dusting her skin to a pale sugar-brown. She heard her mother rustling through the cheese-cloth and stiffened slightly without looking. "Did you hear what I said!" the older woman shrilled, her voice sharp as a sudden cough. She walked swiftly to Anna and desperately she snatched the puff from her daughter's hand. "Don't bother fluffin' up so. You gon' set right here 'til you finish them hats!" Without a word Anna reached forward and tore the puff through her mother's fingers. Feathery pieces floated down and clung to her blouse. Her mother struck her on the ear with the back of her hand. Both of them stood stunned. Then Anna pushed her way out of the room and rushed through the hallway to the stoop. Roy was sitting on the railing outside.

"Where the hell you been so long?" he demanded.

"C'mon, Roy. Sorry I couldn't fix up no lunch. C'mon. Let's go quick." She pulled him by the hand.

"You wait a minute!" It was her mother, flying wildly down the hall. "Roy, don't you take her out to no beach. She got work to do!"

"C'mon, Roy, quick," Anna tugged his hand.

"Don't worry, we ain't goin' to no beach, Mrs. Rawson. My feet wouldn't carry me as far as the subway station."

"All right," her yellow face softened, "you get Anna back here in fifteen minutes."

"What you mean we ain't goin' to the beach!" cried Anna.

Roy steered her down the block. "Do you know where I was at six o'clock this morning? Tossin' crates around a stock-room. An' I been tossin' crates around all week an' baby I'm tired."

"You promised me we was goin'. The whole gang is goin'!" Anna's voice quavered.

"No good, baby," said Roy.

"Well where you goin' now?" whinnied Anna.

"Down by the river where it's cool. I'm gonna lay me down an' take life easy."

"Oh," scorned Anna, "well *I* ain't goin' down by no river!"

"Yes you are," Roy pressed her arm 'til she squealed.

THEY hurried down the grey street, dark under a squalid sky. And in their nostrils were the thick smells of smoke and squalor. Past the Rescue Mission. Past Delphine's Beauty Parlor. Past the drab poker-face of the candy store. Past the boarded-up houses with their gaping black holes of windows where the boards had been chopped away. Across the avenue and over the ash-covered lot. Down the lane between the squat chromium-polishing plant and the big stone power-house with its six towering stacks—six massive pillars ejaculating smoke. Into the poultry yard where the long snaky train-tracks met the long tin sheds over the chicken crates.

Anna sulked at the concentrated stench of packed fowl. *"Phew!"* The cry strained through her nose as she pinched her nostrils together.

Everywhere were hung rotographed card-board signs: "THROW DEAD CHICKENS IN CANS." Roy chuckled.

"Find me a can, baby," he said, "I wanna throw away this little dead chick I got on my hands."

His humor sand-papered Anna's mood.

"Why'nt you park in the slaughter-house?" she muttered.

Roy laughed loudly. They passed under the great concrete highway with its broad black iron cross-beams like giant ribs beneath the roaring blood-stream of traffic. Before them lay the docks, and to the left, the empty shell of the old pier jutted into the river. The planks of the docks were warped and moist in the heat. The green water moved beneath, a translucent skin over big, flexing muscles.

Roy lay down on the soft rotten boards with a groan. He spread out his arms, palms up, and the skin of his palms was spiraled into hard little screws. Moisture widened the pores of his fine oval chin, turning them into tiny black wells. Drops glistened in the soft hairs over his lip. And he lay flat along the ground, sucked down by a weariness more powerful than gravity.

Anna stood over him. She shuffled her feet restively. "Hey! Roy!" she kicked him smartly under the ribs. "Don't you go fall asleep on me!" He was numbed by fatigue, paralyzed, and could not move. His lids closed and he smiled faintly.

"Hey let's go for a walk, Roy."

Once he lay down on a Sunday, the strange wonderful strength that carried him through seventy hours of crate hauling all week suddenly crumpled and left him helpless. He had no *will* to lie on the dock under the sultry, smoky sky. Will and strength drained from him. Only overwhelming weariness remained.

"Let's go," whined Anna, tired of standing in one spot. She longed to be free of the ache that imprisoned her body. "I been sittin' over them hats all week. Just sittin'! Can't move nothin' but your hands."

"See these dogs?" Roy wiggled his toes under his dirt-grey sneakers. "Baby, they is *beat.*"

Anna paced around his spread-eagled form. "That's right," Roy encouraged her, "I'll lay here an' you can walk around me." She came to a quick halt.

"Oh you're mean," she said, "I ain't gon' stand here watch you snore!"

"Don't be like that, chippy," Roy smiled up at the deep scowling groove in her chin.

"Good-by!" she said, and walked away quickly, hoping he would follow. A few yards further on she turned. He was lying motionless with closed eyes. She came back slowly and he felt her presence above him.

"You know baby," he began, his eyes still closed, "it's funny ain't it? Me hustlin' so damn hard all week I can't move a finger, an' you workin' so damn hard you just wanna jump around like crazy."

"Why'nt you come after me before?" she asked peevishly.

"Anna, you an' ten like you couldn't budge me right now."

"Well, this time I'm goin' an' I *mean* it," she backed away.

"I ast you stay. That's all I can do." He lay close to the dock, and soot from the river-smoke coated his face. He lay dark and still as a plank on the dock, dark as the coal-colored streets he came from, and the smoulder-

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Craftsman in the Blue Grass

By George S. Schuyler

Fine hand woodwork is the product of this man who solved the problem of what to do

LEXINGTON, capital of the Kentucky Blue Grass country, is noted for its blooded horses, beautiful women and a cultural tempo that harks back to a more carefree and leisurely era. These are facts well known to all. What is not well known about Lexington is that here resides a master craftsman in wood who has specialized in the reproduction of antique furniture; a colored man who for thirty years has been designing and making beautiful furniture for the leading citizens and institutions of Lexington and environs. In dozens of aristocratic residences in Chicago, New York, Atlanta, Chattanooga, Frankford and Louisville the best of his work is to be seen today, a high tribute to his artistry.

In an age of machine production when the shoddy and the ordinary have become the commonplace, Paul V. Smith makes most of his Sheraton, Chippendale and Duncan Phyfe reproductions by careful and loving hand labor. This does not mean that machinery is ruled out. On the contrary there is much modern machinery at the Dunbar trade school where he teaches 34 young colored lads the art which he has learned to such perfection. Lathes and jigsaws abound but the finer work is done by hand. This consists of desks, chests of drawers, dining room chairs and tables, living room furniture, built-in cabinets, mantles and all sorts of fine upholstering. While the Dunbar trade school is supported by the city and the federal government through the State Department of Vocational Education, much of the equipment has been purchased from funds earned by the students in making fine furniture.

The school was founded in 1935, and has four teachers giving instruction in cabinet making, electrical work, sewing and home making, and a total enrollment of 150. But long before this school was established, Mr. Smith was teaching colored youngsters to do this fine and exacting work in wood. In addition to the designing and reproduction of antique and period furniture, Mr. Smith's pupils also repair and restore fine old antiques for a growing number of delighted patrons and collectors. Today Mr. Smith and his boys do almost all the furniture-making in the vicinity, and several of his graduates are also engaged in the work. It is interesting to note that in the white high schools of the city it was virtually impossible to get youngsters to sign up for this trade, and today young Negroes under Smith's direction do all the fine work for the Lexington schools. This includes all bookcases and typewriter stands, as well as bedroom and dining room furniture used in home making classes.

Graduates Make Good

Of his 34 boys, five are all-day students and two are high school graduates. Others who had to quit school are continuing their courses in woodworking and helping support their families with the money they make in this way. Several of his young men go out to work in the fine residences in the locality. Several of his boys have found jobs with the local firm of Albert Miller which specializes in this work for which they have been so well prepared. Robert Dobson, a 26-year-old student working with Mr. Smith was stricken with infantile paralysis eight years ago. Nevertheless he has persisted in his work until he has become an expert in upholstery and does excellent cabinet work. In 1939, Mr. Dobson won the Rotary Club silver medal for citizenship based on his fine work at the Dunbar trade school. Another pupil, 16-year-old John R. Griffin, won the Rotary Club's gold medal last year for creative ability, application and interest.

Another graduate, James Adams, is head of the cabinet making department at Hampton Institute. Another is successfully engaged in cabinet making in Chicago. One of his best pupils, J. W. Taylor, is a successful cabinet maker in Cleveland. Another of his graduates who has made good is Samuel White, now employed as a cabinet maker in the shop of a Lexington Negro, Earl Brown. Famous graduates of Mr. Smith's classes are Representative Homer S. Brown and Dr. Roderick Brown of Pittsburgh, Pa., whom he taught while he was in Roanoke, Va.

Native of Indiana

Mr. Smith has had an interesting career. Born in Madison, Ind., October 10, 1889, he attended high school there, going to Berea College, Ky., in 1902. He stayed there until September

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Mr. Smith with a set of furniture made under his direction

Youth Meets at Richmond

By George N. Leighton

TODAY, there is an emphasis on youth. Youth acts, youth forums, and what is more important, youth conferences. Following this trend, the N.A.A.C.P. called a conference of youth to meet at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. The date: March 29 to March 31. It was a call to youth of both races.

And youth came. They came—not in great numbers—but they came from the Deep South, from the East, and from the near West. Some were college students; others were laborers. There were white students and colored students from northern schools and from southern schools. All of them came to participate in this experiment on the "resources of democracy in youth."

This, in these few words, was the theme of the Conference. Inherent in this theme were aims summarized by the youth leader of the N.A.A.C.P., the Reverend James H. Robinson:

> . . . the primary aim of this conference is to acquaint youth with the work of the N.A.A.C.P. Then we wish to inculcate in youth the particular aspects of problems that face them in life and help to find a practical solution to them. Out of this conference we hope to see evolved a pattern around which we can build future conferences that will contribute to the further guidance of youth. Finally, we wish to impart to the delegates the techniques and strategies of minority struggles and their relationship to all segments of the population. In doing these things, we hope to have each delegate obtain a sense of responsibility and leadership in the community to which he will return. . . .

Speaking at the opening session, Walter White, the national secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., told the delegates that in a measure this first youth conference called by his organization can be called an indictment of the N.A.A.C.P. "It is not indifference," he said, "that has let 31 years elapse since the founding of the N.A.A.C.P. before a conference for the consideration of youth problems is called. Rather, it is the lack of personnel with which to organize youth groups that has handicapped us. The proper utilization of youth's potency is not for the benefit of the Negro youth alone, but for the white as well."

But perhaps the most poignant statement made by any speaker at the Conference was made by Mr. White himself. He ended his address with the plea to the delegates that they keep their hearts and minds free from bitterness and hatred. "God knows," he said, "that the Negro has reasons for which he can hate America; but we must turn from bitterness. We cannot build a democracy in America for Negroes alone; nor can we build one for whites alone."

MISS BATHRUS BAILEY
President, NAACP Student Chapter, Virginia Union U.

Apparently this thought permeated the Conference from the commission discussions to the final adoption of the resolution. There was no attempt on the part of the delegates to indict any group or class for the predicament in which life itself had placed them. One young woman made a strong appeal for the eradication of what she called "the myth of racial inferiority and misunderstanding."

With equal sincerity a young man, during a session of the Minority Struggles Commission, tried to show how basic was the economic factor in this question of prejudice. "At all times," he said, "there seems to be someone who gains from the exercise of race prejudice. The average southerner is not always against the Negro. But, it pays someone in the South good dividends to keep the races separated by time-worn rules of segregation. For instance, when peoples of both races board a train in New York going South, no one minds the mixture of Negroes and whites. As soon as the train passes the Mason and Dixon Line, the conductor, without request from the white passengers, transfers the Negro passengers to the Jim Crow car. Nevertheless," he added, "there is hope. We can keep on striving toward the eradication of these conditions."

These words, coming as they do from young men and women born in the midst of unfavorable circumstances, yet seeking the right way out of their difficulties, lend encouragement to an otherwise dark picture.

In one of the commissions a student from Morristown college attributed all the evils of prejudice and segregation to the economic factors. "For instance," he said, "we find that we can make a well-educated, middle-class white man see the evils of race prejudice easily. This fact can be explained by pointing out that he does not expect to meet any of us competing with him for his bank teller's job, or for his position in the stock brokerage where he might be employed."

Immediately a student from Howard university objected to such an oversimplified explanation of the racial differences described there. He related the peculiar case of whites from Mississippi who, while they were in that state, would not allow their children to associate with Negroes; yet, when the depression drove them into California, they—through their own initiative—sent their children to schools sponsored by the federal government for migratory workers. How, he asked, can such complex situations be explained by one factor?

"One of our troubles," he said, "is that we are falling into the same rut man has followed since thinking began: we are attempting to find one rule by which we can explain all the phenomena of society."

Then, there was enacted here the interesting drama of a southern white student working in committees with Negro students—in the position of chairman, or in a subordinate role—but working diligently, nevertheless, drawing up resolutions addressed to his own people asking for equality and better conditions for friends whom he had just met.

During a discussion on resolutions a question came when the Conference was

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Editorials

Editor, ROY WILKINS
Advisory Board: Lewis Gannett, Arthur B. Spingarn, Sterling A. Brown, William Allan Neilson, Walter White, Charles Edward Russell, Carl Murphy, John Hammond

What is the Negro Voter Offered?

SOME very interesting figures have been released by the American Institute of Public Opinion (Gallup poll) on the relative strength of the two major political parties as of April. These figures show the Democrats to be preferred but by the closest margin in twenty-four years.

Dr. Gallup's poll shows slender leads for the Democrats in Missouri, West Virginia, Delaware, Indiana, and New York, while a shift of ten points in Kentucky would make it a nip and truck race. The poll shows slender leads for the Republicans in the vital states of Illinois, New Jersey, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

And what are these leads? A shift of ten points in Missouri, of nine points in West Virginia, of five points in Delaware, of three points in Indiana and of two points in New York would send these states from the Democratic to the Republican column.

And a shift of six points in Illinois, five points in New Jersey, four points in Michigan, and two points each in Pennsylvania and Ohio would send these states from the Republican into the Democratic column.

Anything, of course, can happen in the six months between now and the election. That is what makes the Negro vote of the greatest importance to both major parties. The generalissimos of both parties realize this, but we suspect that they are trying to keep it as quiet as possible in order not to have to pay a good price for the much-needed support of the black voter.

Colored people in the tier of states from Boston, Mass., to Kansas City, Mo., and from Baltimore, Md., to Oklahoma City, Okla., would do well to remember each and every day that if the present slim margin remains between the two parties, Negro voters can elect a President of the United States. They can say whether the Democrats shall continue in power for another four years or whether the Republicans shall come back.

Armed with this bargaining power, what is the Negro voter being offered? What does he want?

He wants, first of all, to be able to vote in the southern states; he wants the white primary thrown out. He wants, like every American, to help choose the men and the policies controlling his destiny. Any party which does something about this, lifts the ban, repeals the poll tax laws, or reduces representation in Congress will get Negro support.

He wants a federal anti-lynching law so that he can go about his business with his rights and privileges as a citizen secured against mob terror. He cannot have physical security as long as hoodlums know that nothing will be done to stop lynching.

He wants employment in industry, business, and on the farm without discrimination in wages or types of jobs; he does not prefer to be on relief, although as long as relief is necessary for people of his economic situation, he wants his share without discrimination.

He wants an end to the vicious discrimination in the civil service to enable him to get employment and promotions on merit.

He wants a share of the appointive federal, state, and municipal jobs. He thinks he has lawyers good enough for a federal judgeship. He thinks he has men skilled enough to take their places in administrative, rather than purely advisory, posts in the government.

He wants all branches of the Army and Navy open to his young men. He does not want his cavalrymen working as hostlers and his infantrymen drilling without arms.

He wants his proper share of education and health services, of all phases of social security.

He wants to be able to move about his native land on business or pleasure without meeting insult and humiliation at every turn; to buy a home, live, and rear his children in peace in an area of his own choosing.

About most of these items the major political parties can do something. They cannot make white people love Negroes, or vice versa, but that is not necessary. They can set a pattern which will give equality of opportunity in the broad field of citizenship.

This is an outline of what American Negroes want. With their two-point to ten-point margins, what do the political parties offer?

Miracle

OUT of Mississippi, astonishingly enough, from the pen of Colonel Frederick Sullens, fiery editor of the Jackson, Miss., *Daily News,* comes this bit of miracle writing:

> "Neglect of Negro schools in Mississippi has reached the point where it is a public disgrace.
>
> "There is a loud clamor in the legislature today for more money for schools, more money for teachers, free school books, retirement fund for teachers, etc., but not a blessed word said about spending money to make the Negro schools habitable, yet hundreds of them are hardly better than cattle sheds.
>
> "We took millions of WPA money in recent years and spent practically all of it on new buildings for white schools and only a few paltry thousands here and there for Negro schools.
>
> "We pay Negro teachers $25 per month for the same hours of labor and character of work that white teachers are paid $65 to $85 per month for doing.
>
> "Here's a special field for somebody to do real crusading."

There isn't anything we can add to what Colonel Sullens has said in his characteristically direct fashion. Unlike some southern editors, he does not use a single "weasel" word in this entire editorial.

This is the most hopeful note which has come out of the South in years because it comes from a state generally regarded as being at the very bottom of the list in the matter of social vision on the race question.

Pass the Housing Bill

EVERY possible support should be given to the housing bill now before the House, known as S. 591. This measure will appropriate $800,000,000 for low-cost housing and slum clearance to be administered through the United States Housing Authority. At present the USHA is constructing dwellings at the rate of about 8,000 units a month. If this bill does not pass this rate will be cut drastically in October and will stop altogether by next January.

The fate of the housing bill is of special interest to colored people who belong to the low-income group for which the government is providing clean, modern dwellings at rentals within the reach of families earning as little as $500 a year. Negroes have shared fairly in the housing projects already built by USHA since approximately one-third of all dwellings constructed up to February were for Negro occupancy. Write your congressman and ask him to vote for S. 591.

Negro History

(*Continued from page* 137)

Brown Russwurm and Frederick Douglass. Today it is only a job.

Negro journalism is also far more personal than white. Some of the editors are more touchy than a dictator of a small Latin-American state or a petty African chief and will order to be suppressed news of those individuals who differ with them however slightly. The younger crop of Negro newspapermen too, know, as a rule, little or nothing of Negro history and hate to be corrected. In 1937, a leading Negro newspaper, copying from a white one, said that Sargeant Wanton of Washington, D. C., was the first and only Negro to win the Congressional Medal of Honor. I sent four typewritten lines to the paper saying that instead of one there were forty-one Negroes to win this highest honor. The article was never published. I called at the office and left a stamp for its return. The stamp disappeared, too.

Then there is the rivalry in the camp of the Negro historians. There are the Brahmins and the Sudras, or the fellows from the big white colleges with big degrees and those who have none. The Brahmins, in turn, are divided. In short, the researches of none of the groups mix, or are endorsed by the others, even when drawn from the same sources.

Again, any number of Negroes also resent hearing that this and that great man were Negroes. They had been taught that they were white and hate to have their ideas changed. They much prefer to sit back in the easy chair of their own inferiority. I have several times been attacked in print or conversation because I said from the extensive documentation I have on the subject, that Christ was originally worshipped as black, or that Beethoven, according to the description of him by his contemporaries, must have been a dark mulatto. In 1919 when I was writing sketches of Negroes as General Dumas, Antar, Bilal, Kafur, one Aframerican wrote from Germany to a Negro newspaper saying I was talking all fable. Of course, his white professor had never told him so, ergo, it couldn't be so.

Latin America "Touchy"

In the suppression of Negro history, Latin America comes a close second to England and America. Most of the peoples of these lands are of mixed Indian, Negro and white ancestry, and sometimes very much offended at candid photos that show up their Negro strains, a fact also true of the British West Indian. Dr. Francia of Paraguay, most terrible of the Latin-American dictators, had a blue-blooded Spaniard, who had once snubbed him, shot because he took him for a mulatto, which Francia probably was. Francia further decreed that white Spaniards in Paraguay should marry only Negroes and Indians. Hence most of the great Latin-Americans, including even San Martin and Sucre are doctored up to look like white movie stars of the technicolor.

Some Mexicans in California once protested because I said that Vicente Guerrero, liberator of Mexico and its third president, was a mulatto, my authority being Biographie Universelle, Larousse, and Guerrero's less idealized portrait. Similar it was with what I said of Bolivar, the George Washington of South America. Now comes a distinguished authority on Latin-Americans, S. G. Inman, who says in his book, "Latin America" published in 1937, page 46, "The two most gifted men of Latin America, ranking high among the geniuses of the nineteenth century, were born in the Caribbean—Simon Bolivar of Venezuela and Ruben Dario of Nicaragua. Both probably had Negro blood although it is often considered unpatriotic to say so—this, no doubt because of the desire to appear well in the eyes of the European and the North American."

If you don't want a fight on your hands don't mention "Negro" blood to the average Cuban or Porto Rican in the United States even if he is three-fourths black. He wants to be white.

In the matter of hushing up Negro ancestry, the South African is even worse. Some of the oldest and most aristocratic families of the Cape are the descendants of white men and native women, who were made "white by law" in order to clamp down more effectively the exploitation of the native blacks.

Negro ancestry will come into its own, and Negro history is the means that will bring it about. All peoples were once despised, even the English, chief despisers of the Negro. Macaulay says, "In the time of Richard I, the ordinary imprecation of a Norman gentleman was, 'May I become an Englishman.' His ordinary form of indignant denial was, 'Do you take me for an Englishman?'"

Youth Meets

(*Continued from page* 144)

asked to go on record favoring "social, economic, and political equality" for the Negro. A student from Tuskegee supported by a student from Howard University called the attention of the committee to the phrase "social equality" as running counter to the "old line of reasoning on the race question."

"That's just it," retorted the white student on the committee, "it is an old line of reasoning. We are not concerned here with the 'old line.' We are the new line of reasoning; and some day we will have to accept the thesis of all-around equality. We cannot compromise; for if we do, we shall have to give ground on other fundamental issues." Here, perhaps, is a new thought, a new principle. Or, was it youth on the war path?

At any rate these expressions are interesting. They provoke thought. So when Dean William H. Hastie of Howard university law school addressed the Conference on one of its last sessions his words fell on receptive ears. "Youth today," he said, "is not prepared to accept the thesis that 'what we know nothing about we will not speculate upon.' What we need is to face our problems honestly, and we will make progress in the years ahead. At the same time we will make our life more meaningful than it is today."

Later, William Anderson of Greenville, South Carolina, told the delegates the story of his experience in leading the Negroes of Greenville in their fight for political rights. This youth's personal experiences in meeting life's problems, told in his own words, projected the discussions of the Conference from the purely theoretical sphere to the realm of practicality. So youth inspires youth.

We have reviewed the aims of the Conference. Any summary of its achievements must include the following points: it was a beginning; it set a precedent around which can be built a means of bringing together youth of both races to discuss problems of common concern to them; it furnished a means by which ideas could find a common meeting ground; and finally—this is its greatest contribution—it organized a permanent structure for coordination of N.A.A.C.P. youth councils on college campuses.

So, looking back on this experience, it is safe to conclude that the efforts of those who worked to make the Conference possible were well rewarded. Within the scope of its resources and its extent, the results were commendable. The aims and objectives of the Conferences being as they were, the attitude of the delegates and the sincerity with which they tackled the problems assures future efforts in this direction. Whenever youth can come together and deport themselves in such manner and display such intelligence, America need not fear. Youth will contribute to the solution of our national problems.

From the Press of the Nation

Editorial of the Month

Foil the Filibuster

New York *Post*, N. Y.

THE Wagner-Gavagan anti-lynching bill still awaits action in the United States Senate.

This bill, which would hold local officials accountable for their failure to do their constitutional duty, passed the House of Representatives by an overwhelming vote. The Senate Judiciary Committee has given it almost unanimous indorsement.

Why the delay? Is it that Senator Barkley, the majority leader, has allowed himself to be intimidated by the threat of a filibuster?

It is hard to believe that he would permit lynch law, in the form of dictatorship by a ruthless minority, to enter the Senate itself. A great many important matters, it is true, are awaiting consideration. A determined attempt to talk the Wagner-Gavagan Bill to death would hold up the work of the Senate seriously. But a delay in adjournment of a few days or a week would be little to pay in return for the enactment of a law that would put an effective curb on mob murder.

If Senator Barkley and other Administration leaders don't wish to pay that price, they have a better means of avoiding it than abject abandonment of the Wagner-Gavagan Bill.

They can foil the plotting of the would-be filibusters by adopting a "cloture rule" to limit debate within reason. This is the only defensible course. If Senator Barkley and his aids allow the Wagner-Gavagan Bill to be stifled at this session, they will be just as responsible for its death as its most bitter opponents.

Mark Sullivan makes the grave error by labeling anti-lynching legislation of importance to Negroes only.

This of course is untrue for any state which permits the violation of the rights of one class of its citizens to go unpunished will, in time, tolerate that same wrong against other classes of its citizens. White men have been lynched in this country and their executioners went unpunished also. We maintain that every man's constitutional rights should be upheld and if the states can't do it, the federal government must. . . . Des Moines, Iowa, *Bystander*.

Young people generally treat those they consider old with contempt or commiseration, for they consider them, "on the way out." They do not realize, however, that despite their youth, they enjoy no monopoly of life, hold no mortgage on longevity. . . . Cincinnati, O., *Union*.

There went on sale Monday morning of this week the first United States stamp bearing the face of a colored American.

The issuance of this stamp, bearing the likeness of Booker T. Washington, founder of the world famous Tuskegee Institute, is a milepost along the path of progress for the colored American citizen.

We hope and pray that the issuance of the Booker T. Washington stamp is typical of that broader and more truly American attitude toward its citizens of color. . . . Philadelphia, Pa., *Tribune*.

A sensational article in *Liberty* magazine not many months ago written by the Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan predicted that his organization would rear its head again in the affairs of the country and conquer its lost prestige in American life.

Today a grand jury is sitting in Fulton county, Georgia, at the county seat which is Atlanta, and an investigation is being made into thirty floggings and other crimes for which the Klan stands accused. All of the crimes investigated so far were committed against white citizens and not Negroes. Here is an organization dedicated originally to the extermination and persecution of the Negro now turning its iniquity upon fellow whites.

The instrument of lynching which wrought havoc upon Negroes and littered Southern forests with hanging black bodies for fifty years, is now used against whites as well as Negroes. The Klan, which is a lawless body, is dangerous to both races and lynching which is a Klan instrument, has become a double-edged sword making victims of white and black alike. . . . Detroit, Mich., *Chronicle*.

The studied and deliberate attitude of trying to circumvent and make of no effect the decisions of the United States Supreme Court, which is being brazenly and defiantly practiced by Southern states whose court decisions affecting Negroes have been upset by the nation's highest tribunal, presents one of the most serious problems now before the country. . . . Cleveland, O., *Herald*.

Neglect of Negro schools in Mississippi has reached the point where it is a public disgrace.

There is a loud clamor in the legislature today for more money for schools, more money for teachers, free school books, retirement fund for teachers, etc., but not a blessed word said about spending money to make the Negro schools habitable, yet hundreds of them are hardly better than cattle sheds.

We took millions of WPA money in recent years and spent practically all of it on new buildings for white schools and only a few paltry thousands here and there for Negro schools.

We pay Negro teachers $25 per month for the same hours of labor and character of work that white teachers are paid $65 to $85 per month for doing.

Here's a special field for somebody to do real crusading. . . . Jackson, Miss., *Daily News*.

The recent outrage committed upon citizens in the form of open kidnapping in the face of constituted authority is indeed unfortunate at this time when we are up in protest of the treatment accorded citizens in far off Germany at the hands of Hitler and his regime.

Booker Washington wrote in the records long ago, that whether it be his constituted rights, his liberty or property, any man who starts out by cheating a Negro will wind up by cheating a white man.

It is therefore suggested that we arrest our attention from the horrors practiced on citizens abroad and turn our attention to wars being made within our own gate upon our own citizens. . . . Cleveland, O., *Guide*.

The Sharecroppers

By Carmen Willette

This essay, in the form of a letter to the editor of a newspaper, won a special prize during National Sharecroppers Week offered by Julius Hochman, general manager of the Dress Joint Board, International Ladies Garment Workers' Union

EVERY real American feels concern for the sharecroppers. It is a part of our American code to be humane. However, I wake up in the night and find my thoughts and sympathies dwelling on the Negro children in sharecropper families in the South. This is natural, I suppose, for I am a Negro girl whose family roots are in the deep South, and but for the grace of God, I, too, would be one of them. I would be denied proper food, adequate shelter, the chance to attend school long enough to acquire a useable education, denied exuberance, all of which are the rights of youth.

No one can understand these people by merely "investigating" conditions. For these interviews you must take with a grain of salt, since the family either presents itself as proud, uncomplaining and at peace with the world, or as God-forsaken pawns in the clutches of bloodsucking land-owners. Both pictures can be overdrawn.

To know the soul of the 'croppers you must live through normal routine. You must rise before sun-up from the hard slats of the "company" bed whose torture has been aided by the corn shuck mattress: you must try to adjust your eyes to the light of the flickering lantern whose sickly gleam is no match for the smoke coming from the hearth, where the mother is fanning up a brush fire to cook the breakfast.

As your smarting eyes grow accustomed to the gloom you see the others rising from their pallets on the floor (the house has one room) their eyes heavy with sleep and their tempers on edge. You realize then that you have a splitting headache from the stale air: cooking odors weeks old, sweating bodies, babies who have fouled themselves many times during the night, frequent visits from the one pig. All combine to heckle the senses. You wash with the rest, outdoors.

When the last pallet is up from underfoot, and the children have rolled their patch work quilt up from the table that it might be used for the morning meal, when through much experience the mother has made the fire flourish enough to cook the hominy grits and chickory brew while supporting the last born on one arm as it nursed at her drying breast, you crowd about the rude table with its red cloth and wait until the blessing is said.

The father folds his knotty hands, hands white-ashy between the fingers

Carmen Willette

in spite of washings, hands full of callouses and stiff with rheumatism. Upon these hands he bows his head to thank his God for grits and bacon grease, seven hungry children, a broken wife and quagmire of debt.

After the meagre meal you prepare to go to the field to chop cotton. (If it isn't chopping it's something else until the pesky stuff is baled and shipped.) One of the big girls fills a tincup of buttermilk for each, into which is broken a portion of corn pone. Another girl puts on the greens for the evening meal while the mother puts clean "hippin's" on the babies. Then off you go to the fields in the gray dawn, the children still yawning and scratching their bare legs, while taking care not to spill the bread and milk, the older ones sullen and quick, as if anxious for a whack at their enemy taskmaster, "Cotton."

At middle-sun you stop, aching all over, and seek out your cup of milk. You knock off the ants and bugs and eat the soggy mess with a forked stick. You wait until the sun passes middle point, then, under the sharp, anxious proddings of the father you resume work, to continue until the dusk of evening. The crop means life another year.

The little company now returns to the house, and your temper is as short as anyone's, and none is to be trusted. You laugh in bitter scorn as you reflect on the yarns of workers returning home at evening singing happily.

The evening meal of greens and fat and corn pone is good, but there is not enough to go around. The children eye each other's plates suspiciously, often muttering "He got mor'n me." This meal is blessed by the father, of course, and when it is over he retires to a corner by the smoky hearth and draws on a pipe. The women folk clear away the dishes, then get to piecing quilts, washing, etc.

Evening with the poor sharecroppers are like those of the very poor peasantry in any land. There is talk about crops, about the landowners, about the neighbors. The old people say "Let us be thankful for what we have," the young folks look in bitterness and wonder what there is to be thankful for. They dare not voice their rebellion, for children bred close to the soil are taught to respect the opinions of their elders. But they go to town and they realize how much of life they are missing.

Only at the religious meeting do the young folks relax. There they find expression for their sadness in the songs of their foreparents, set to the rhythm of their ancestors of the jungle.

As the throbbing notes beat into your consciousness, no matter how many arrangements you have listened to from famous composers, no matter how far removed from the simple life you consider yourself, or sophisticated and secure, the spirit of the songs engulfs you and you join in as one of them, repressing with difficulty the urge to throw up your hands and shout at the top of your voice.

The days of the 'croppers are the same, but the rebellion of the young folks will not remain forever suppressed. After all, it seems so little to ask in a land of plenty: food, knowledge and adequate shelter to make one fit to truly serve the land they know as home, and against which they have never plotted treason, nor against which they have made no pledges of allegiance to other powers.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

This committee helped the St. Louis, Mo., branch stage its recent successful Cotton Ball. In the group, front row: Cleota Spotts, Mrs. S. R. Redmond, Empress Davidson, Mrs. R. C. Haskell, Mrs. E. S. Kenswil, Bernice Wheeler, Bea Tyler, Mrs. Ina McFadden and Mrs. Alberta Thomas. Second row: Mrs. Hattie Thomas, Gertrude Nixon, Mrs. Brice Hailstock, Mrs. Edith Roberts, Mrs. William Jones, Frenchie Wood, Alma Hatch, and Mae Gearin. Third row: Del Grazia Scott, Mrs. W. C. Moseley, Mrs. Jessie Parker, Thais Meaux, Margaret Moore, Mrs. Edward Keene, Mrs. Bernice Mitchell, Mrs. Silverine Halleck, Mrs. J. C. Chaney and Edwina Wright. Back row: Viola Hyatt, Mrs. N. B. Young, Elain Franklin, Marie Anderson, Mercedes Cunningham, Mary Carter, Adele De Boe, Blanche Bannister and Christine Hammonds

Senators in Radio Appeal for Anti-lynching Bill

On Monday night, April 29, Senators Robert F. Wagner of New York, Mathew M. Neely of West Virginia, and Arthur Kapper of Kansas spoke over a nation wide radio network urging passage of S. 845, the federal anti-lynching bill, which is now on the Senate calendar. The broadcast was over the blue network of the National Broadcasting Company from 10:30 to 11 o'clock, eastern daylight saving time.

The senators, who are staunch supporters of the bill, insisted that it be taken up before Congress adjourns and that it be given a chance to be voted on upon its merits. They denounced the threatened filibuster and said that no small minority should be permitted to block the will of the majority.

Supporters of the anti-lynching bill throughout the country are urged once more to write letters to Senator Alben W. Barkley, Majority Leader, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C., urging him to bring the anti-lynching bill up for vote.

Broad Fight for Vote Launched by N.A.A.C.P.

A campaign along all fronts, using every resource of the courts, the Department of Justice, and public opinion, is being launched actively by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to guarantee Negro voters in the South the right to the franchise.

The N.A.A.C.P. campaign, now out in the open, is a result of the activities of many of its branches in the southern states dating back a year ago and includes the spectacular fights in Miami, Fla., and Greenville, S. C., in which the Ku Klux Klan was defied. The association's Birmingham, Ala., branch has also been active together with numerous units in Texas.

The N.A.A.C.P. barrage will include action by the Department of Justice, which has been consulted almost continuously since last July. The N.A.A.C.P. legal staff has forwarded steadily a stream of memoranda, briefs and affidavits to the FBI on violations of the Negro's right to vote in the South and has cited both to the FBI and to the attorney general's office the federal statutes which have been violated.

That the drum-fire of the association on these cases will most likely result in action was indicated at a conference recently between N.A.A.C.P. attorneys and O. John Rogge, assistant attorney general, in Washington.

In addition to urging action by the attorney general's office, the N.A.A.C.P. plans to bring criminal and civil suits in the federal courts, and the groundwork for several of these already has been laid in Texas and will be instituted in the next thirty days.

Thurgood Marshall, special counsel of the N.A.A.C.P., will leave New York shortly for investigation and consultation on primary cases in the states of Texas, Alabama and Louisiana.

The court actions planned in Texas

have special significance this year because of the candidacy of Vice-President John N. Garner for the presidency, and the campaign for re-election of Senator Tom Connally, foe of the anti-lynching bill and organizer and leader of the filibuster against it. Congressman Martin Dies, who has refused persistently to investigate the Ku Klux Klan and mob violence, also hails from Texas.

To back up its campaign, the N.A.A.C.P. legal staff is completing research for a memorandum on procedure for instituting both criminal and civil cases wherever Negroes' rights have been violated.

Complaint Against Missouri University is Amended

Charles H. Houston and Sidney R. Redmond, attorneys for Miss Lucile Bluford in her suit to secure damages for being refused entrance to the school of journalism of the University of Missouri have filed an amended complaint in the U. S. district court at Jefferson City, Mo.

The court rendered a memorandum opinion in which it said that the motion to dismiss the suit, made by attorneys for S. W. Canada, registrar at the university, "will be sustained by proper order unless, on or before ten days from the date hereof, the plaintiff's petition is amended." The amendment ordered in the memorandum opinion is that the plaintiff allege that Miss Bluford applied to Lincoln university (the Negro state institution) and Lincoln did not offer graduate work in journalism and was not preparing to offer it.

Protest to Hays Office On "Birth of a Nation"

In response to an appeal sent out by the N.A.A.C.P., heads of prominent organizations interested in race relations, labor, business, and social service have protested to Will Hays, motion picture czar, against releasing for further distribution a sound version of the vicious anti-Negro film "The Birth of a Nation."

Among those who have sent vigorous protests to the Hays office, 28 West 44th street, New York, are: Dr. Channing H. Tobias, head of the department of Negro work in the National Council of the Y.M.C.A.; Mrs. Bernard Waring, acting secretary of the Society of Friends' Committee on Race Relations, Philadelphia; R. B. Eleazer, Secretary of the Atlanta, Ga., Commission on Interracial Cooperation; Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress; Frank B. Crosswaith, chairman of Harlem's Negro Labor Committee, representing more than seventy unions of Negro and white workers; Harry Pace, President of the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company of Chicago; George N. White, of the Congregational and Christian Churches Board of Home Missions; and Charles Webber, of the Methodist Federation for Social Service.

Replying to the N.A.A.C.P.'s original protest, Carl E. Milliken, director of the Community Service Department of the Hays office, in a letter dated March 25, said that the circulation of the sound version of the picture, made nine years ago, "has not been great and we have had practically no comment from the public."

Subway Jobs to be Open On Unified New York System

When the City of New York takes over the subway and elevated lines now being operated by the Interborough Rapid Transit company and the Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit company, the old restrictions upon Negro employment which were in force under private management will be lifted. Mayor F. H. LaGuardia has stated flatly that the City of New York will not maintain any contract or agreement with any labor union on the subway lines which will discriminate in any way between employees on account of race or color. The Transport Workers Union has all the employees on the two systems except the motormen and the TWU does not discriminate against Negroes. However, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has the motormen and it has a definite provision in its constitution barring Negroes from membership.

At the present time the City of New York owns and operates the Eighth Avenue subway system, all the employees of which are under civil service and on this system colored workers are employed in all capacities without restriction.

High Court Reverses Texan's Death Sentence

The fifteenth United States supreme court victory, the third within six weeks, was won by the N.A.A.C.P., when the high court on March 25 reversed a Texas supreme court's death verdict against Bob White, young Negro charged with rape in 1937.

Convicted in Pope County, Texas, back in August, 1937, White was kept awake and severely beaten for four successive nights until he "broke." This was done despite the fact that he had witnesses to testify that he was picking cotton all day during the period he was alleged to have committed the crime. Unable to read or write, White was forced to sign a "ready-made" confession with his mark.

The case was handled by the national office, the Texas conference of branches, and Houston branch of the N.A.A.C.P.

Marian Anderson to Give Benefit Concert May 26

Despite the fact that she is completing the heaviest New York season schedule of her career, Marian Anderson, the internationally famous singer will give a concert at Carnegie Hall, Sunday, May 26, for the benefit of four Negro national organizations.

Proceeds from the concert, except for the actual cost of promoting the affair, will be divided equally among: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth avenue; Division of Colored Work, National Council of the Y.M.C.A., 347 Madison avenue; National Urban League, 1133 Broadway; and the International Committee on African Affairs, 8 West Fortieth street, all of New York City.

Branch News

Alabama: Dr. Walter L. Brown has been elected as president of the Birmingham branch, succeeding S. L. Belle. All other officers were re-elected: J. J. Green, first vice-president; Wilbur H. Hollins, second vice-president; Dr. C. A. J. McPherson, secretary; Atty. A. D. Shores, treasurer; and E. O. Jackson, field secretary. The Rev. E. W. Walton, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist church, has been leading the membership campaign with the supervision of E. Frederic Morrow, coordinator of branches, and reports indicate a highly successful drive.

California: It has been reported that the Los Angeles branch has offered $1000 toward the reward for the arrest and conviction of the kidnaper of a 9-year old Negro girl.

Connecticut: At a recent meeting of the Bridgeport branch one of the features of the evening was a discussion concerning participation in the National Negro Congress in Washington, D. C., April 26-28.

The Hartford branch held a rousing membership campaign in March, under the direction of Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, field secretary, setting the goal at 500. In the course of the campaign, Mrs. Lampkin and a delegation including Kenneth Hickman, campaign manager, Horace Robinson and Elizabeth Shepard, called upon Mayor Spellacy and gained his membership and support. Earlene Gregg and Naomi McMillan led the canvassers with 36 new members each. Mrs. Minnie Harris and Elizabeth Shepard brought in the next largest number of members. The city wide campaign was carried on by 36 workers. On April 5 the branch, of which Dr. Allen F. Jackson is president, sponsored a mass meeting at which the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., pastor of New York's Abyssinian Baptist church, was guest speaker.

Delaware: The Wilmington branch presented as one of its March features a Negro history quiz held at the Howard high school. The four winners were Betty Jones, Elmer Conoway, Helen Clifton, and Harvey Dawson. "Professor Knows-all" was N. Watson Brown. The cash prizes were offered by Mrs. Pauline F. Milburn, Mrs. J. F. Hopkins, Josephine P. Weston, Mrs. B. Stubbs, Mrs. E. D. Banton, Caroline B. Williams and Anna F. Broadnax, and the judges were Anna F. Broadnax, Mrs. Marguerite Reed, and J. Albert Gardiner. The time keeper was Arthur W. Reed, Jr. The second feature of the month was the one-man art exhibit of Edward L. Loper, local WPA artist, held March 17 in the foyer of Howard high school. The branch presented Raymond Pace Alexander, Philadelphia, in an open forum in April. Pauline A. Young is chairman of the program committee which includes Mrs. Sara Taylor, Mrs. Bessie Peterson, Mrs. Emma Davidson, Mrs. Annie J. Murdah, Arthur W. Reed Jr., and N. Watson Brown.

District of Columbia: Students from Miner Teachers College were the models on March 25 at a fashion show and dance in Lincoln Colonnade, sponsored by the District branch. Vera Gandy was in charge of the show. A delegation representing the District branch, and other groups met with the editors of the Washington *Post* and *Evening Star* to protest the appearance in those papers of advertisements calculated to stir up race prejudice and anti-Negro feeling in the capital. As a result of the conference, a letter submitted by the delegation was published by the *Star* with the statement that the *Star* regretted "the undue emphasis which the wording of the advertisement placed upon racial differences."

Illinois: The Decatur branch, in cooperation with the N.Y.A. and the Urban League, sponsored a vocational opportunity campaign in March. E. H. Dansby, president of the branch was chairman of the campaign committee, which also included Mrs. Alice Caldwell, Charles T. Thompson, Lillian Robinson and L. J. Winston. One of the features of the vocational guidance week was a radio broadcast on which Charles Thompson, of the executive board, gave a fine talk on jobs for young colored people. The branch reports that it is very proud of Robert Dansby, son of the president, who is making a fine athletic record at his school, especially in the art of discus throwing.

Indiana: In March the Evansville branch began its series of church programs, the first being at the McFarland Baptist church, with the Rev. J. G. Moore speaking on the topic of "Cooperation Today."

Chicago alderman Earl B. Dickerson recently addressed the Hammond branch on the topic of "Democracy and Civil Liberties" at a meeting at the Hammond high school. He praised Hammond and Gary officials for their efforts toward a federal low-cost housing project, and urged passage of the anti-lynching bill. Other speakers included Rev. E. J. Mungovan; Rev. Paul G. Shaeffer; Harry O. Shell, president of the Gary branch; Mario B. Tomsiek, president of the Gary Bar association; Dr. Dennis A. Bethea, who gave the welcome address; Milton Kaplan; and Joseph C. Jacobs, president of the Hammond branch. H. Theodore Tatum, principal of the Roosevelt high school in Gary, presided and presented the school male quartet. Also on the program was the Zion Baptist chorus of East Chicago under the direction of Mrs. Sallie Butler. Rev. Maurice F. McCrackin delivered the invocation.

James Photo

Hartford, Conn., PANCAS: seated left to right: Glendora Duggan, Riley Johnson, Erlene Gregg, PANCA president, Mrs. Minnie Harris, Naomi McMillan. Standing left to right: Overton Olds, Theda Marshall, Nancy Bivens, Kenneth M. Hickman, Campaign Chairman, Elizabeth Shepard, Mrs. Leona McMillan, Joseph Calloway.

PANCA is an organization of 100 percenters in membership campaigns. The name was gotten by transposing the letters NAACP. In each drive there is a campaign, team and individual goal. To become a PANCA a worker must reach the individual goal which is usually set by the workers themselves. The individual goal may be 10, 15, 20 memberships, or more. To be elected as a PANCA is an honor in a campaign and friendly competition is aroused because the first PANCA becomes the President of the Royal PANCAS in a current campaign.

To date Royal PANCAS have been organized in Dallas, Texas, Springfield, Ill., Hartford, Conn., and Washington, D. C. This idea will be used throughout subsequent campaigns looking toward permanent organization of NAACP 100 percenters.

Iowa: The Des Moines branch in a letter to the management of the Shrine auditorium, has called attention to complaints received that Negroes were being restricted to seats in one section of the auditorium. The letter expressed the hope that opportunity for better seats would be offered to Negroes wishing to see shows with large Negro casts, scheduled for this year.

Rev. E. W. Rogers was named chairman of the membership drive of the Marshalltown branch at a recent meeting. The drive was to last until April 25. Plans were made to obtain the Booker T. Washington stamps. Mrs. Vicie Ragland spoke on "Our Duties as Citizens."

The Mason City branch, of which Paul Scott is president, presented Lydia M. Barrette, librarian, in a talk on the "Democracy of Reading."

The Ottumwa branch recently conferred with the board of social welfare relative to the possibility of employing a Negro relief visitor. Roy Winston, branch president, was spokesman for the committee in a 45-minute discussion. The chairman of the board pointed out the small number of Negro clients in the county, that total not justifying the hiring of a visitor for that sole purpose. No definite action taken, another conference is sought. At the April meeting of the branch, Bernice Lundien of the Ottumwa Y.W.C.A. and Alice Johnson, connected with the WPA recreational project, were guest speakers. The branch is proud to announce receipt of their charter through its president.

Kansas: The Newton branch held a mass meeting at the Second Baptist church in March. A short program was rendered and Grant Mitchell, judge of the Probate court, was the principal speaker.

Maryland: County aid for the erection of a community center has been asked in a letter to the Board of County Commissioners from the Cumberland branch. The letter signed by Reginald Cooper, chairman of the finance committee, outlines a three-fold purpose to be served by such a building: to house the nursery school; to provide opportunity for vocational training; and the means of supervised recreation. A cabaret dance for the benefit of the proposed community center was held April 5 at the State Armory under the direction of Madah Topson, secretary of the branch. More than $200 in contributions has been received to date for the project.

Massachusetts: Mrs. Eunice H. Carter, a member of District Attorney Dewev's staff in New York, addressed the 30th anniversary banquet of the Boston branch in March. Other speakers included Rabbi S. J. Abrams, Russell A. Wood, Victor Bynoe, president of the Youth Council, and Judge Ahearn. Ray Guild, president of the branch, was master of ceremonies.

A donation of $5 to New Bedford Home for Aged was voted by the New Bedford branch at a recent meeting. New members reported by Dr. J. T. Parham, membership chairman, were Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Gracia, Jack Lorriane, Mrs. E. Morris, and Charles Bonner. C. D. Onley, Miss Carter, Walter W. Bonner, and J. R. Barreau were named a special committee on education. Contributors to the musical program were the Unity double quartet, Laura Curtis, Darcy Whyte, Mrs. Bertha J. Youngblood, and Mrs. Ruth Dade accompanied by Mrs. Frisbie Carter.

Michigan: At the last reported meeting of the Grand Rapids branch in the Community AME church, Dr. Eugene S. Browning, Dr. E. Alston and Dr. Cortez

English participated in a discussion on health, and musical contributions were made by Mrs. Charles Mickens, Carter Jefferson and Arthur Kelley.

Missouri: The Rev. E. S. Redd, pastor of the Second Baptist church and president of the Columbia branch, was principal speaker at a recent meeting of the newly organized branch.

The recently organized branch at Mexico had as the principal speaker, Dean Pickens, director of branches. Officers elected were: Charles Duncan, president; E. T. Wrightstell, vice-president; Mrs. Hazel Douglas, secretary; R. L. Clemon, treasurer; and Miss Orphetta Woolery, assistant secretary.

In an attempt to carry the work of the NAACP to all people in all parts of Kansas City, the Kansas City branch has planned a series of short meetings to be held in churches in outlying districts of the city. The first such meeting was held at the St. James Baptist church in Westport through the arrangement of the finance committee, and the program was planned by the entertainment committee. J. R. Lillard acted as master of ceremonies, and the Rev. R. L. Lillard, pastor of St. James, delivered the invocation. Musical numbers included selections by the choir, Alva L. Livingston, William K. Johnson, and the trumpet quintette from the R. T. Coles band. Attorney Carl R. Johnson, president of the branch, and Dovie P. Jones, president of the youth group, addressed the meeting. Leslie Smith introduced the guest speaker, Earl D. Thomas, principal of the Coles Vocational School, who spoke on the association's objectives. Members of the Westport community pledged their support in the fight against discrimination in city job appointments. The Kansas City branch has also been putting forth great efforts to ascertain the attitude of candidates for city positions toward wider employment of Negroes in the city government. A committee composed of C. W. West, Julius B. Jones, J. H. Gregg, and Mrs. Janie Hill, and a representative of *The Call*, has held conferences with candidates and representatives of both political parties. It seems that all of the candidates expressed surprise and condemnation at the discrimination against Negroes in several departments of the city, (especially Negro plumbers and electricians.) The committee asked the candidates to promise that if elected to appoint a city manager who will choose as personnel director a man who will not discriminate. The branch has also sent a letter of protest to the presiding judge of the county court in Saline county against jim-crow signs in the courthouse rest rooms.

Citizens of Charleston, Mo., recently enthusiastically welcomed a visit from Dean Pickens, who was there to establish a branch. Officers elected were Rev. C. L. Williams, president; Marshall Currin, vice-president; Miss M. G. Pettigrew, secretary; T. B. Howard, assistant secretary; and Mrs. R. D. Jones, treasurer. A limited executive committee was elected pending increase in membership. During the early part of the evening a luncheon sponsored by the local committee of citizens and the faculty of the Lincoln school was given Dean Pickens. Meetings are to be held the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

New Jersey: A forum meeting sponsored by the Jersey City branch was held March 27 at the House of Friendliness. Subject of the meeting was housing for colored people. The branch has been cooperating with the Hudson County Citizens committee of the Urban Colored Population Commission whose purpose is to investigate and remedy socal and economic conditions.

Frank Dennis, local representative of the census bureau, was guest speaker at a mass meeting sponsored by the Morristown branch.

The Rev. J. R. Henderson was the guest speaker for the public meeting of the Montclair branch on March 31.

Carnie P. Bragg was elected president of a newly organized branch at Passaic. Dr. A. G. K. Andrews was elected vice-president; Mrs. Harold Generals, secretary; and James Harris, treasurer.

The Bridgeton branch presented Roy Wilkins, editor of THE CRISIS, as guest speaker at the March meeting. Mrs. Marie F. Purnell gave a detailed report of the State Conference of March 16, and Dr. L. G. Scott reported on the local housing project. The welcoming address was made by Judge Francis A. Stanger, and Rev. Ridout, president of the branch, introduced Mr. Wilkins, who spoke on interracial problems. Music was furnished by the Union Four quartet, Mrs. Florence Riley, and the choir of John Wesley church.

New York: James E. Allen, president of the state conference, was the guest speaker at the recent meeting of the Brooklyn branch at the Carlton Y.M.C.A. Albert Clark, vice president of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Housing association, also adressed the meeting which was presided by Frederick H. M. Turner.

The entertainment committee sponsored the annual dance for the White Plains branch at the County Center in March. The dance was given for the benefit of the educational fund of the branch. Members of the committee were Raymond H. Ayler, Coleman P. Holley, T. J. Lee, Joseph Boyer, Mrs. Estelle Thompson, and Clorean Terrell.

The Peekskill branch has sent a letter under the signature of president Joseph I. Barnes, to the editor of the *Evening Star* expressing thanks to the Village Board of Trustees for the appointment of Stanley Peterson, Jr. as inspector of election district No. 1.

The New York State Conference of branches was held in March. In attendance were Stephen H. Kennedy and Mr. Turner of Brooklyn; Joseph I. Barnes of Peekskill; Mrs. George Bowks, Albany; Miss Kemp, Mrs. Imes, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Barrow of New York. Mr. Allen, president, reviewed objectives of the conference, and members reported on the activities of their various groups. It was voted that a resolution be submitted to the national board of directors to give the state conference the power of vote at the national convention. The next conference will be held in Albany and the weekend of May 5 was suggested as the date.

Oklahoma: The sixth annual session of the Oklahoma conference of branches was held in Ardmore, April 25 and 26. Presiding at the five sessions from Thursday afternoon to Friday evening were: Mrs. M. F. Mitchell, president of the Ardmore branch; Editor Roscoe Dunjee, president of the state conference; Dr. H. W. Williamstown, regional director S. E. area, Idabel; Dr. W. A. J. Bullock, regional director of S. W. area, Chickasha; and T. R. Ragsdale, regional director of the N. E. area, Muskogee. Professor C. D. Tate is regional director of the N.W. area, at Tulsa.

Ohio: Langston Hughes, author, playwright and poet, was presented under the auspices of the Columbus branch in March. The annual membership drive of the branch has been launched with an aim for 1000 new members. Rev. C. F. Jenkins, vice-president, is chairman of the committee, and Mrs. Thelma Jackson, the campaign secretary. The branch announces letters have been written to Senators Taft and Donahey on the lynch bill. Taft replied that he will vote for closure, and at last report no answer had been received from Donahey.

The Newark branch has now given its fifth annual style show and dance, one of its popular features. The committee in charge included Grace Rossin, Mesdames Bessie Weaver, A. E. Burton, Gertrude Nickerson, Mary C. Jones, and Louise Moore, Carl Green, Clement Dorsey, F. W. Rucker, H. L. Franklin and W. D. Nickerson.

Pennsylvania: The queen contest conducted by the Media branch was a glowing success despite the fact that there were many other activities on the community. Mrs. Mary Garnett, representing the Lima U.A.M.E. church, led with a wide margin in the sale of votes, and was crowned Queen of the Media branch for 1940. Miss Sara Woodland of Cheyney was second, and Cora Warren of Swarthmore was third. The branch recently featured a "Choir Fest" in which a number of choirs and choruses participated.

A round table discussion on the "Vocational Situation as it Affects the Negro Youth" was held in April as a feature of the Delaware County Vocational Conference and was under the auspices of the Chester branch.

Reported committee chairmen of the New Castle branch are: J. C. Crunkleton, membership; B. Hall, entertainment; Dr. J. A. Gillespie, legal redress; finance, Dr. G. Garnett; meetings, J. McCarthy; youth, Mrs. B. Dillard; education, Rev. Dandridge; and publicity, H. B. Bradley.

Tennessee: Langston Hughes was speaker under the auspices of the Nashville branch in March, in the auditorium of Meharry Medical College.

Fifty-six members took part in the organization meeting of the Chattanooga branch. Officers elected were: Dr. Stephens, president; L. D. Collins, vice-president; Prof. T. E. Cravens, secretary; and Dr. N. B. Callier, treasurer. Members named to the executive committee are B. C. Tipton, Mrs. Willard Astrapp, and W. O. Bryson.

The Nashville branch has added its request to the several submitted, for a special legislative session to repeal the statute making payment of a poll tax mandatory.

Membership drive of the Knoxville branch is now under way with a goal of 2000. The Rev. B. B. Evans is president of the branch.

Utah: Permission was granted the Salt Lake City branch to solicit funds and distribute literature on the streets on April 20, in the interest of the promotion of the anti-lynching bill.

Virginia: At a recent meeting of the Roanoke branch, Mayor Walter W. Wood spoke on the "Importance of Negroes Becoming More Civic Minded." Other participants were Dr. E. E. Ricks, Benton W. Dillard, Winfree B. Carter, Rev. J. R. Johnson, and president J. A. Reynolds.

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The Treasurer Says—

Miss Ovington

MARIAN ANDERSON, at the end of a long and wearying season, gives a final concert at Carnegie Hall May 26 for the benefit of four associations working for the Negro, of which the N.A.A.C.P. is one. As she pours forth her voice to us in all its fullness and beauty, so with both hands she gives generously of the wealth that she has earned.

We received a letter the other day from a young man, born in England but now an American citizen. "I have just become an American citizen," he says, "I have sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States, to protect from its enemies without and within. My first task is to attack race prejudice against the colored man." Out of a small wage he sent a dollar.

We welcome the twenty-two new branches chartered since the new year, bringing us in all $709. Thirteen of these branches are in the South and Southwest. Three are in Mississippi and five in Missouri. Mr. Pickens organized in Charleston, Missouri, shortly after a mob had burned down the colored church where a Negro lawyer had recently spoken. The branch that is formed under these conditions, in a remote place where protection is unknown, deserves a Victoria cross for courage.

Two bequests have recently come to the N.A.A.C.P. and a word on this form of gift may be valuable. Bequests did not come in our early days, we were too little known, but they began in the Twenties and we have received in all twenty-four. The largest came from Mary McMurtrie of Philadelphia. Before the depression it was valued at $124,000 of which half was to come to us and half to the American Civil Liberties Union. This rapidly depreciated after 1929, but during those lean years when banks were closing and business seemed at a standstill, the McMurtrie bequest made it possible for us to go on without curtailing our work.

Our other bequests have varied from $5,000 to as low as $50. They have come from both races, the larger number from the colored. The states represented are Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, Missouri, and California. We have even been left a piece of land in Washington State. The amount received, omitting the McMurtrie estate, is $25,647.

Two are in the nature of trusts. A certain sum is given yearly, in these cases five dollars and twenty-five dollars, and arrangement is made that at the giver's demise, a lump sum will come to the Association. This type of gift is growing in popularity.

I asked our president and former chairman of our legal committee, Arthur B. Spingarn, to explain this matter of bequests to the layman. He has given two forms and a letter of explanation. Here they are:

Specific Bequest or Devise

I give, devise and bequeath unto the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York, the sum of $..... (or real estate or personal property as the case may be) absolutely and forever.

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I give, devise and bequeath unto my trustees the sum of $..... (or real estate or personal property as the case may be) in trust to collect and pay over the rents and income to my (relative and name) during (his) or (her) life and upon (his) or (her) death, to pay the principal sum or fund so held in trust to the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York, absolutely and forever.

And this letter:

"Dear Miss Ovington:

"As requested by you, I enclose forms of bequests and devises. I must explain that technically under the law a gift by Will of personal property is a bequest and a gift of real property is a devise. The first form covers an outright gift or devise to the N.A.A.C.P. upon the death of the person making the Will. The second form covers the contingency of someone who wishes to make a provision for some member of his family and after the death of that member, wishes to leave the property, whether personal or real estate, to the N.A.A.C.P.

"These forms have been made as simple as possible and are not the language that I would use if I were drawing up the Wills myself, but they are sufficient.

"I think it would be a good idea if you stated in your article that in case any person contemplated making a Will, naming the Association as a beneficiary, the Legal Committee would be glad to assist them in preparing the provision for the bequest to the N.A.A.C.P."

First Annual Student Conference

The First Annual Student Conference of the N.A.A.C.P. was held at Virginia Union university March 29-31, with 53 delegates from the following states: Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, and the District of Columbia; 65 delegates from Virginia Union university, representing 25 campus organizations, including the Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior Classes, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Zeta Phi Beta and Sigma Gamma Rho sororities; the Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, Phi Beta Sigma and Gamma Tau fraternities and their respective pledge clubs; the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Student Government Association, and the African Study Club. Fraternal delegates were present from the Young Peoples Socialist League, the Campaign for Youth Needs, and the Youth Committee Against War.

The colleges represented were, Union Theological Seminary, New York university, Brooklyn college, Hunter college, College of the City of New York, New York; Rutgers university, New Brunswick, N. J.; State Teachers college, Cheyney, Pa.; Lincoln university, Chester, Pa.; Howard university, Washington, D. C.; Virginia State college, Ettrick, Va.; Virginia Union university, and the University of Richmond, Richmond, Va.; Virginia Union unit, Norfolk, Va.; William and Mary college, Williamsburg, Va.; University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.; Randolph-Macon Woman's college, Ashland, Va.; West Virginia State college, Institute, W. Va.; Paine college, Augusta, Ga.; Ft. Valley Normal and Industrial school, Ft. Valley, Ga.;

Morristown college, Morristown, Tenn.; Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.

The opening meeting on Friday evening was addressed by Dr. John W. Barco, vice-president of Virginia Union, who gave the welcome address in place of Dr. William J. Clark, who was ill; Rev. James H. Robinson, acting youth director, who explained the aim of the conference and the whole youth movement within the association; and Walter White, executive secretary, who in his keynote address declared that in our efforts to secure equal educational opportunities, physical security, the right of franchise, etc., "we must keep ourselves free of bitterness and hatred, and keep our vision unclouded as far as it is possible to do so, because we can never build a democracy for Negroes or white, but for all of the citizens of America."

"Basically, there is no difference between problems of the Negro youth and American youth in general," said Dr. Reid E. Jackson, West Virginia State college, in summarizing the Saturday discussion groups. "Our problems become minority problems due to our status. In an effort to solve this problem, it becomes necessary for the youth of America to take advantage of the possibilities that are inherent in all of the areas of life and activity in terms of an approach that is possible, intelligent and progressive. The technique for the realization of the above is to work out a program of action through education."

On Sunday morning a symposium, "Strategy and Techniques for Minority Groups" was led by Prof. Henry J. McGuinn, advisor to the Virginia Union college chapter, assisted by discussion leaders Dean Hastie, Marjorie Penney, Dorothy Height, Dr. Reid E. Jackson. The main point was the cooperation of minority groups not only among themselves, but with majority groups in order to bring about an effective solution of their problems. In concluding the symposium Prof. McGuinn declared, "If our problem at the moment seems greater than we can bear, let us remember this. We live in a world in which technological forces and economic institutions make it increasingly imperative that men shall cooperate. Mankind's biggest problem today is learning to cooperate in such a way that the integrity and personality of each individual shall be respected. If in any way, through the development of strategies and techniques, we shall help mankind to the realization that it is unthinkable that men shall continue to live in a world which accepts 'dog eat dog' as its underlying philosophy, all of our contemplations in this conference and similar conferences shall prove to be vastly worthwhile."

Committee Elected

At the final business session on Sunday afternoon, the following permanent Student Conference Committee was elected: Anderson Davis, Morristown, Tenn., chairman; William Richardson, Richmond, Va., 1st vice-chairman; Gloster B. Current, West Virginia State, 2nd vice-chairman; Dean Willian H. Hastie, Howard university, Dr. Reid E. Jackson, West Virginia State, and Dr. F. D. Patterson, Tuskegee institute, faculty advisers; Porter Dallas Stamps, Ft. Valley, Ga., James Wright, Howard university and Bert Alves, Brooklyn, N. Y., members-at-large; Thomas Jones, Virginia Union university, secretary.

Resolutions Hit Poll Tax

Resolutions favoring passage of the Wagner-Van Nuys-Capper anti-lynching bill; passage of the Geyer bill to repeal the poll tax as a pre-requisite to voting; equal educational facilities; organization of Negro and white workers in the South into unions without discrimination; equal distribution of federal aid for education, vocational training and jobs; substitution of the federal government for the states as an agency for certifying voters; institution of a new test case by the N.A.A.C.P. as to the legality of the white primary; the right to decide on participation in war by referendum vote; cooperation with all minorities on the American scene to retain their rights under the Bill of Rights of our Constitution; abolition of the Dies Committee for its partisan investigations, completely ignoring such terrorist organization as the Ku Klux Klan, and a vote of thanks to the administration of Virginia Union university, were among the many adopted.

Telegrams of greeting were received from Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt; Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, National Youth Administration; Arthur B. Spingarn, president of the N.A.A.C.P.; Edward Strong, executive secretary, Southern Negro Youth Congress; Dr. John W. Davis, president, West Virginia state college; Dr. Floyd W. Reeves, director, American Youth Commission; Iota chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Reynold M. Costa, president, Boston youth council; Hains Landon, president, Student Council, university of Cincinnati.

West Virginia Next

The conference unanimously accepted the invitation of the faculty and student body of West Virginia State college to hold the Second Annual Student Conference there in late October or early November, 1940.

Copies of the complete proceedings of the conference may be had upon request.

Sunday

(*Continued from page* 142)

ing laughter of the community burned deep into him, and the bitter weariness of the community lay heavily on him, and weariness was re-building a great angry strength within him.

"I'm goin'," warned Anna. His silence was a challenge. She turned, caught a sob in her throat. Then suddenly she thought she would burst if she didn't run, cast off the thick pressure of dampness, throw off the stifling pressure of sitting by the steam-iron table in the shop all week, and sitting and sitting. She ran across the street under the concrete highway. Raced along the poultry sheds. Tore past the power-house, over the ash lot, across the avenue and up to the stoop of her house. A light drizzle sprinkled her face and arms. Black clouds like great cinders moved swiftly against the steely back-drop of the fog.

When Anna pushed open the kitchen door her mother looked up from the stove. "Your hats an' needles an' thread an' everything is waitin' right here," she indicated the porcelain-top table.

Anna said nothing. She moved sullenly to the table and dropped onto a stool. She cut a felt body around on the faint chalk mark and double-threaded her needle. From outside came the soft swish of fine rain. "That'll keep up a good long time," said her mother. Anna jabbed the needle in, out, in, out, into the resisting felt and then stabbed it through with her thimble finger and yanked it out between thumb and forefinger. In, out, in, out, in, out. And the parallel tracks of stitches appeared once more. And the old ache returned to her neck and spread like fire down her spine. And thread sliced her hands and her fingers burned like they were flayed.

She bent nearly double over the hats, rushing to get out the dozen before evening. And as her face leaned close to one of the neat little tracks, a small dark blot spread slowly in its path. Then another, then another. Wet, angry, blood-colored blots on the bright red felt.

On to Philadelphia!
31st N.A.A.C.P. Conference
June 18-23, 1940

Book Reviews

AN APOLOGY FOR SLAVERY

***The Slavery Controversy: 1831–1860.* By Arthur Young Lloyd, Pd.D. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1939. XII+337 pp. $3.00.**

In the Civil War (which Southerners still euphemistically call "the War between the States") the North won all the battles, but the South won the WAR. For despite the ideological fanfare of the southern hustings about "state rights," "popular sovereignty," and other democratic isms, what the South was really fighting to preserve was a decadent economic order and an anachronous way of life. She was fighting to keep her medieval ideas and her Negro slaves since the great humanitarian movements and ideas of the latter eighteenth and the early nineteenth century had failed to make the slightest dent in southern obscurantism. And Appomattox helped but little! Even today when it is quite a fad, the *dernier cri*, to chatter about democracy we find that the rank and file in the South is still opposed to enlightened ideas and movements. The South does not discuss an issue or idea—it merely "cusses." On the central issue of Negro status the South has managed not only to win but to convince the rest of the country of the rightness of its stand. What was once largely southern Negrophobic propaganda is now so ubiquitous that it is really a part of the American *mores* in things Negro. On this point the South has also won.

Though the *causa causans* of the Civil War was Negro chattel slavery, the rest of the country, including even our liberal northern historians and intellectuals, has been persuaded to accept the southern view expressed by that arch rebel Jefferson Davis "that the existence of African servitude was in no wise the cause of the conflict, but only an incident."

Many northern historians now accept the southern myth of a great agrarian culture destroyed by a grossly materialistic North. Yet if we apply almost every conceivable test of civilization we fail to find any of those characteristics, or few at least, which are the indices of a great culture. The antebellum South really had less culture and less civilization than present little Denmark. The plantation tradition of *So-Red the Rose* variety is largely myth. The southern aristocrats of tradition are as mythical as the griffin. Actually they had less culture, but probably equal surface polish, than the czarist aristocrats of old Russia. But these and many more myths are now accepted by large segments of our literate populace as historical truth. The South has won on these points.

Present American conceptions of the Negro and Negro character are largely of southern origin. Everywhere in this country one encounters the usual southern stereotypes of the Negro and they are usually accepted as gospel truth.

Another myth which has been created largely by southern historical scholars is the one that the great masses of southerners, hill billy as well as aristocrat, were opposed in principle to the institution of Negro chattel slavery. According to this view it was the fanatic meddlesomeness of northern Abolitionists and selfish marplots which caused the War. If it hadn't been for these fellows, the South would have solved its problem of slavery to its and the Negroes' best interest. This is the thesis of Dr. Lloyd's book.

Our author argues that if it had not been for the "abolitionist attack" the South would have eventually freed its slaves, since the masses of southerners were opposed to the institution anyway. This thesis is defended in the following chapters: Chapter I is devoted to the period prior to 1831 when much anti-slavery sentiment could be found in the writings of leading southerners; Chapter II details the Abolitionist attack which created the anti-toxin of pro-slavery sentiment and defense; Chapter III tells of immediate southern reactions to northern attacks; Chapter IV, the southern defense; and the remaining four chapters outline the scriptural, economic, and social justifications of slavery as well as the political significance of the Abolitionist attack.

Our author makes much of the anti-slavery sentiments of early Southerners; he quotes Jefferson, Washington, Patrick Henry, and others, as well as various resolutions passed by southern legal bodies. He also stresses unduly the class distinctions of early New England in a sort of you-are-as-bad-as-I-am argument. But he fails to tell us that the anti-slavery views of such men as Jefferson, Washington, *et at.*, were philosophical rather than practical. None of these men took steps to free his own slaves. These men, of course, were not hypocrites; they were merely following, as intelligent leaders, the intellectual currents of their time much as our parlor pinks and "literary proletarians" follow what they believe are the best humanitarian ideas of today. Though a contemporary liberal may rant about southern sharecroppers in the pinko *Nation* and *New Republic*, he seldom does anything practical to help the poor fellow. Practical application of humanitarian doctrines, if and when they are made, are usually restricted to one's own ethic and economic group. Hence one cannot take seriously our author's selected quotations of anti-slavery sentiment prior to 1831. Oue can find just as many quotations expressing the opposite view. Since the whole structure of American society in those days was based upon slavery, the critics were Jeremiahs and far from representative in their belief and criticisms. The great masses of Americans both north and south could hardly be expected to regard one of the chief sources of their wealth as a sin.

Our author is also on shaky ground when he tries to smear the Abolitionists as "leaders off on tangents in the form of infidelism, anarchism, free-love, and communistic and utopian schemes of government." Every radical movement has its lunatic fringe; the Abolitionists had theirs; yet the majority of Abolitionists were neither fanatics nor fools. At bottom their attack on southern Negro slavery was an attack on that semi-feudalistic anachronism which was the slave-holding South. Most of these men were in the vanguard of the liberal movements of their time and they fought just as strenuously for woman suffrage and other libertarian doctrines. And the South was defending slavery long before the Abolitionists began their violent attacks upon the institution.

Dr. Lloyd does not cover the slavery controversy of any period thoroughly and he quotes largely from secondary sources rather than the original documents. It is quite evident from his comments and the way he organizes his material that he regards slavery as a benevolent institution which benefited the Negro instead of degrading him. His study is biased and his view of the Negro deprecating. He distorts events of the Haitian Revolution (p. 244ff.) and goes out of his way in a footnote (p. 105) to sneer that recent Communist activity among Negroes has increased the number of rape cases involving Negroes. Yet he offers no proof of this—because there is none! An *ex parte* study which is misleading in its historical implications.

JAMES W. IVY

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IN DEFENSE OF HYPATIA

IN WOMEN'S DEFENSE, by Mary Inman. Los Angeles, California: Mercury Printing Company, 1940. 174 pp. $1.25.

In thirty-three episodic chapters, Mrs. Inman outlines the chief grievances of her sex against that pantalooned biped called man. Women, like Jews, Negroes, Armenians and other subjugated minorities living among their oppressors, are the victims of the economic exploitation of their masters, as well as baleful stereotypes which keep them from being regarded as merely human. Just as the central stereotypes of the American Negro fuse him either into a clown or a sinister devil hell bent upon debauching some beautiful Nordic damoiselle, male stereotypes of the female of genus *Homo* make her either an angel or temptress. Throughout most of written history woman has been regarded as merely woman, a female animal. She could play only two roles: she was either noteworthy as a mother, or notorious as a lover; but she was seldom regarded as a human being. And man has continually molded woman toward this ideal of physical beauty and mental weakness. John Langdon Davis could write a fairly comprehensive history of women by merely noting the prevailing masculine ideas and notions at any given epoch as to what a woman ought to be and the role she should play in social and sexual life. A consequence of this is that few women appear in history outside the role of *grande*

LEGAL DIRECTORY

Responding to frequent inquiries, THE CRISIS carries herewith the names and addresses with telephone numbers of some of the 1300 colored attorneys in the United States, purely as a service to those seeking such information. THE CRISIS does not maintain a legal bureau, as many readers seem to think, and the N.A.A.C.P. concerns itself only with cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizenship rights. Lawyers whose names do not appear below are requested to write to THE CRISIS.

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amoureuse. Run over the list of women famous in ancient history. Why are they famous? They are famous because they quintessentialized the femaleness of their sex, because the incurably romantic male has come to regard them almost as the sex itself. Deborah, Semiramis, Sappho, Aspasia are a few who leap to mind at once.

The first blow at the conventional male stereotype of woman was delivered by that wise woman and scholar, Miss Charlotte Perkins Stetson (later Mrs. Gilman) in her *Women and Economics*. Miss Stetson showed that woman's subservient position in Western *Kultur* was grounded in the fact that "the female of genus homo is supported by the male." As we are well aware, almost any subservient group, whether male or female, soon develops many of those characteristics which we now dub female or feminine. Cunning, deceit, frivolity, and intellectual shortsightedness are usually thought of as peculiarly feminine; yet these same vices are also ascribed to Negroes and other suppressed minorities. Oppression and denial of freedom of expression always begets guile, and guile is surely not sexual.

Though economic dependency explains much about woman's peculiar status in our civilization, it is not the whole truth, and this argument often ignores many feminine reactions which seem rooted in the female psyche. Dr. A. V. Nyemilov, the noted Russian feminist, though believing in sex equality and a sympathetic advocate of woman's cause, agues in his *Biologicheskaya Tragediya Shenshchiny* (Editorial Claridad of Buenos Aires

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publishes a Spanish version as *La Trugedia Biologica y Social de la Mujer*) that woman's life is a four-act biological tragedy. His thesis is that woman's sexual role as mother causes sex to exert a much deeper influence on her biological and psychic life than sex does on man. Not until society makes the necessary social and economic adjustments, he argues, can modern woman hope to achieve equality with the male. As society is now organized, woman's peculiar needs are ignored.

On the other hand, the noted psychiatrist Dr. Beatrice M. Hinkle boldly argues that though women in America, at least, have gained their outward freedom, they are still psychically dependent upon man. And she doubts if women will ever be able to think and act from their own center. She points out that even the most intelligent women give unthinking acceptance to the masculine viewpoint even about themselves. It is this truth that is made much of by all the anti-feminist male writers of history, and a truth which gives special pungency to Mr. Mencken's ironic *In Defense of Women*.

Mrs. Inman's thesis seems to be that women unthinkingly accept this anti-feminist viewpoint of their detractors. But her arguments are developed so sketchily that they are hardly convincing to one who holds opposite views. Before our author goes very deeply into one idea or theory, she jumps to another; and this often leaves the reader puzzled. Her book would have been immensely improved if she had woven her facts and arguments around a few basic ideas instead of treating a large number of historical, anthropological, economic, psychological, and social facts in a journalistically episodic manner.

The Negro reader will be interested in the striking parallels which Mrs. Inman draws between the women's rights movement and the struggles of the Negro. The two have always been more or less coterminous. The early feminists received much support from Frederick Douglass, William Wells Brown, Robert Purvis, and others among the Negro abolitionists. At the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 Douglass was the only man who supported Elizabeth Cady Stanton's resolution that women should vote. Douglass was also presiding at a national convention of Colored Freemen when that body passed a resolution affirming the equality of the sexes. Most of the early feminists were also staunch abolitionists. "The first legislative action ever taken in the United States, and as far as this writer knows, the first in the world, giving women the vote, was that of the freedmen in the Georgia State Legislature, who passed, over the opposition of the white landlord bloc in the legislature, a bill enfranchising women."

Throughout her book the author reveals herself as profoundly aware of the basic sameness of the problems of all oppressed groups. No one oppressed minority or group can hope to rise without taking along the other. Yet I have my doubts about the sincerity of the desire of the masses of either women or Negroes or other oppressed groups for the freedom and equality about which they yell. Just as most Negroes seem to be segregationists at heart, so do most women seem to court sexual subserviency and economic dependence. Mankind yearns for shelter, not the chilling winds of freedom.

JAMES W. IVY

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Craftsman

(*Continued from page* 143)

1904, studying carpentry. When colored pupils were no longer permitted to attend, he went to Hampton Institute where he studied cabinet making until he was graduated from the trade school in 1908, and from the academic department in 1909. He was captain of the Hampton football team during 1906–7–8–9.

From Hampton he went to Roanoke, Va., where for eighteen months he taught manual training at the Gregory avenue school, afterward becoming principal. He left Roanoke for Lexington in 1916, serving first as teacher of manual training and later as principal of Booker Washington elementary school, while teaching cabinet making at Russell and Dunbar high schools.

Mrs. Smith has been principal of Booker T. Washington elementary school since 1935. She was Lucy Harth, daughter of the late Attorney D. W. Harth of Roanoke, Va. The Smiths have four sons. Vernon C. was all-American center at Morehouse in 1933, and is now superintendent of buildings and grounds at Spellman college. Paul

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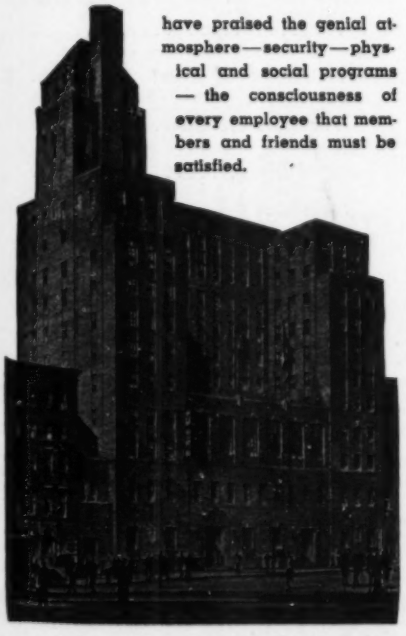

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Mention THE CRISIS to Our Advertisers

Vincent is a graduate of Kentucky State college and is studying theology at Gammon. Daniel Earl is a senior at Morehouse college where he has been on the honor roll since his freshman year. And the youngest, Edwin Milton, is in the 10th grade at Dunbar high school. Mr. Smith is a member of the board of trustees of Asbury Methodist Episcopal church in Lexington.

Among the outstanding white citizens of Lexington for whom Mr. Smith has designed, reproduced and restored antiques and period furniture are Dr. George P. Sprague, noted psychiatrist, for both his High Oak sanatorium and his home; John Yellman, first vice president of the First National bank, and Walter Hillenmeyer of the Hillenmeyer Nurseries. For Mrs. Barclay Storey he made an entire set of period furniture for her New York City home. Overtures have been made to have him design and make the furniture for the new dormitory at Kentucky State college. He has already made the furniture for that college's home economics department.

Keeps Alive Tradition

Mr. Smith has kept alive in his section of the country the long tradition of fine artistry for which the Negro was famous long before reaching America. It was the African Negro who was first to work in iron and wood, first to carve ivory and bone, first to work in gold. When the British imperialists forced their way into the ancient city of Benin, Nigeria, in 1899, they found bronze works of art that set the galleries of Europe agog. Today the West Coast of Africa is still noted for its artistic creations. In the New World it was these enslaved Negro artists who fashioned the fine iron grill work on the balconies of New Orleans, Mobile and the cities of the Spanish Main, and in the hinterland of Suriname, the ex-slave Djuka people produce wood carvings unsurpassed anywhere.

At a time when Negroes are more deeply concerned over their economic future, this soft-spoken, genteel Lexingtonian is making a great contribution to group security by teaching young Negroes a highly specialized work which is in great demand. Mr. Smith says no field of work is more flourishing, and that there is plenty of work for qualified Negro cabinet workers, if they can do it. It has been his life work to get them young and teach them well.

On to Philadelphia:
31st NAACP Conference
June 18-23

Housing

(*Continued from page* 139)

around. For these people, the need is to continue and expand the current program. For this, of course, additional funds are necessary.

Further, there is the vast under-paid Negro rural population. Their housing is incredibly substandard. Most of these people, too, need higher earnings as the first step towards improving their status. The Farm Security Administration has made a start in rural housing. The USHA is now embarking on a rural program with the cooperation of the FSA. Unless, however, additional funds are forthcoming, little will be accomplished for farm families.

Finally, there is the housing problem of Negroes who are above the low-income group. Unlike others in such economic levels, Negroes do not have the opportunity to move freely in our cities. This means that colored persons do get outside the established confines of "colored neighborhoods" usually pay an unbelievably large proportion of their incomes for housing. Just as there is a grave shortage of housing for all in the income class between $1,200 and $2,000, so among Negroes in that bracket, and higher, there is a dire lack of facilities. Certainly, here is a great and challenging need. As long as Negroes are restricted to certain areas, all colored persons, regardless of income, will face a grave housing problem, involving excessively high rents and purchase prices with a correspondingly smaller part of the income available for the other essentials of a decent standard of living.

Negro Folk Songs

By Josephine Copeland

Dark brooding, restless
Clouds of dreamy melody
Surging up from
Stark misery and dank despair

Oozing up from the fetid swamps
Of racial discrimination
Baptized by tears of
Racial frustration.

Rising like sweet incense
They stir the whole world
With the plaintive cry
Of a crucified race.

BEAUTIFUL CHILD CONTEST

Entry Blank

Name of Child.....
first name middle name last name

Age: (Years, months and days).....

Exact Color: .....Color of Eyes: .....

Color of Hair: .....Exact Height: .....

Exact Weight: .....Date of Birth: .....

Mother's Name: .....Father's Name: .....

Father's Occupation: .....

Mother's Occupation: .....

Address: .....

City or Town: .....State: .....

Note: Contest begins May 1, 1940, and ends August 1, 1940. No photographs will be returned unless accompanied by proper postage and self-addressed container. Photographs should be large size and slick finish for good reproduction. Entries received with postmark after midnight August 1, 1940 will *not* be considered.

Each issue of *The Crisis* (June, July and August) will contain six photographs of the most beautiful children selected so far and $1.00 will be paid for each one selected and published.

The September 1940 *Crisis* will carry the photograph of the Grand Prize Winner ($25.00) on the Cover. Inside will appear the second choice ($10.00), the third choice ($5.00), the fourth choice ($3.00), the fifth choice ($2.00) and the sixth choice ($1.00).

The address of *The Crisis* is 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.